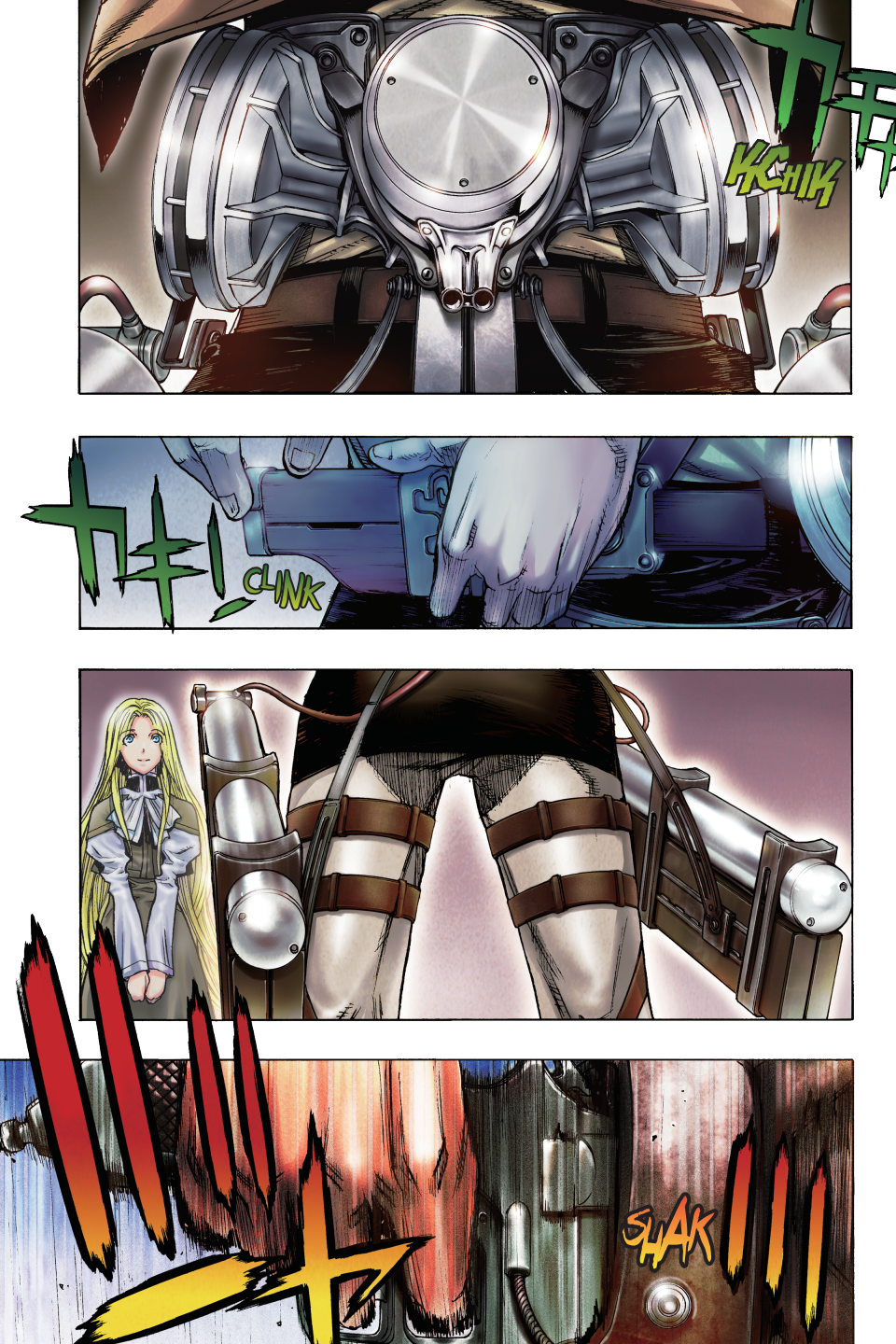
ATTACK ON TITAN
BEFORE THE FALL
13
ART BY SATOSHI SHIKI STORY BY RYO SUZUKAZE
ATTACK ON TITAN CREATED BY HAJIME ISAYAMA
CHARACTER DESIGNS BY THORES SHIBAMOTO


KCHIK
CLINK
SHAK

ATTACK ON TITAN
13
BEFORE THE FALL

Based on "Attack on Titan"
created by Hajime Isayama
Story by: Ryo Suzukaze
Art by: Satoshi Shiki
Character Designs by: Thores Shibamoto

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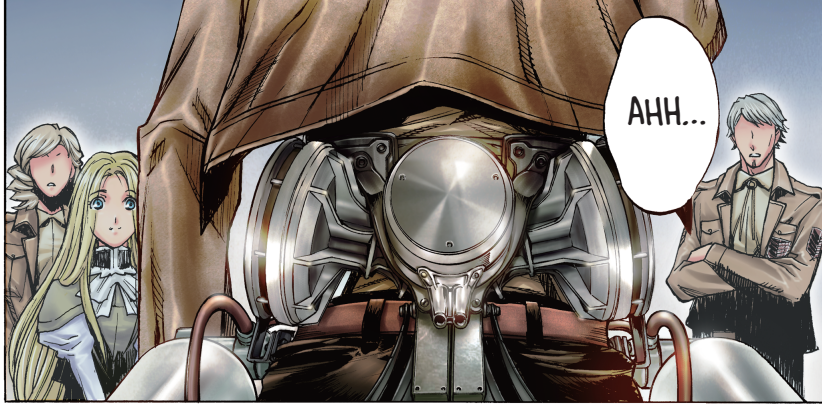
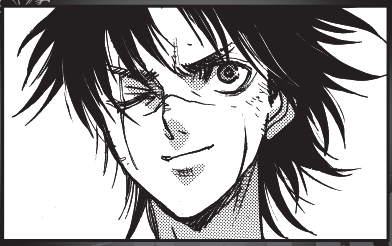

AHH...

THE VERTICAL... MANEUVER-ING...
...EQUIP-MENT... YOU SAY?

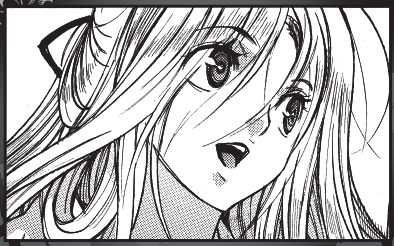
Before the fall Character Profiles

Kuklo

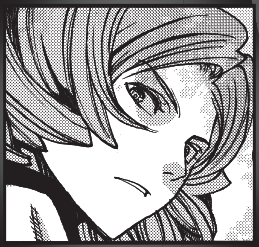


A 15-year-old boy born from a dead body packed into the vomit of a Titan, which earned him the moniker, "Titan's Son." He is fascinated with the Device as a means to defeat the Titans. Xavi defeated him in battle and left him for dead, until Rosa's group found and rescued him.

Sharle Inocencio

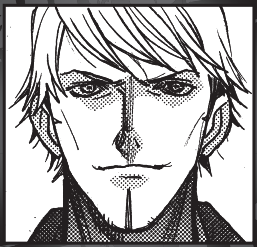


First daughter of the Inocencios, a rich merchant family within Wall Sheena. When she realized that Kuklo was a human, she taught him to speak and learn. She escaped her family home and went into the underground ward in search of Angel, inventor of the Device.



Cardina Baumeister

Kuklo's first friend in the outside world, and his companion in developing the Device.

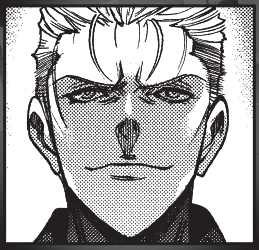


Carlo Pikale

Jorge's son and current captain of the Survey Corps. After they battled Titans together, he has great respect for Kuklo.

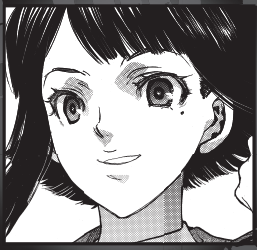
Jorge Pikale

Training Corps instructor. A former Survey Corps captain who was hailed as a hero for defeating a Titan.



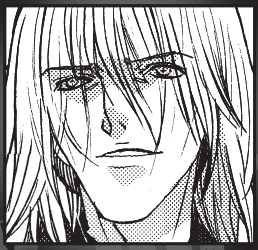
Xavi Inocencio

Head of the Inocencio family and Sharle's brother. Member of the Military Police in Shiganshina District.



Rosa Carlstead

The daughter of Maria and Sorum, Angel's longtime friends. She's in training now, hoping to enter the Survey Corps.



Angel Aaltonen

A former inventor who developed a tool to fight the Titans 15 years ago, known simply as "The Device."

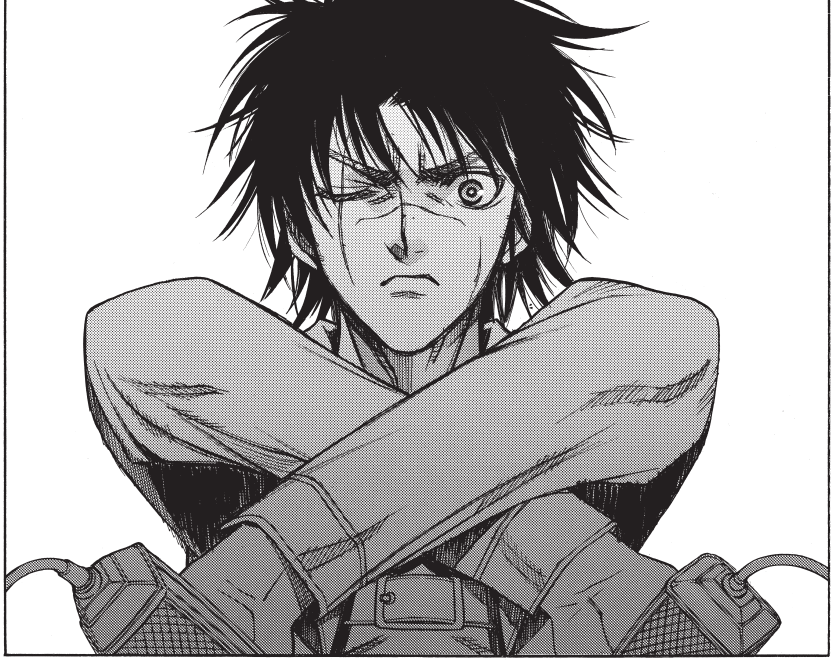
The Story So Far

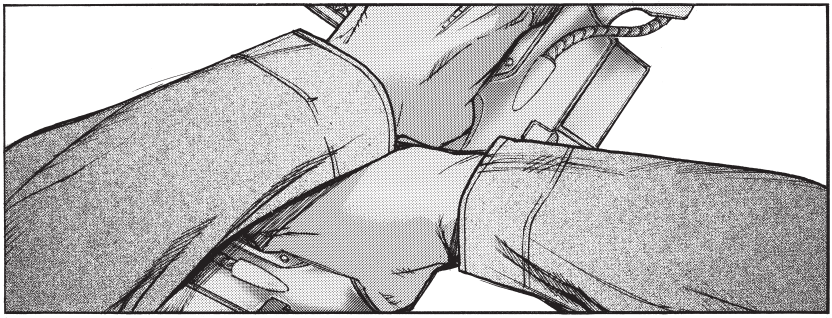
When a Titan terrorized Shiganshina District and left behind a pile of vomit, a baby boy was miraculously born of a pregnant corpse. This boy was named Kuklo, the "Titan's Son," and was treated a sideshow freak. Eventually the wealthy merchant Dario Inocencio bought Kuklo. Dario's daughter Sharle learned that he was human and not the son of a Titan, and decided to teach him the words and knowledge of humanity. Two years later, Kuklo escaped from the mansion along with Sharle, who was being forced into a marriage she did not desire.

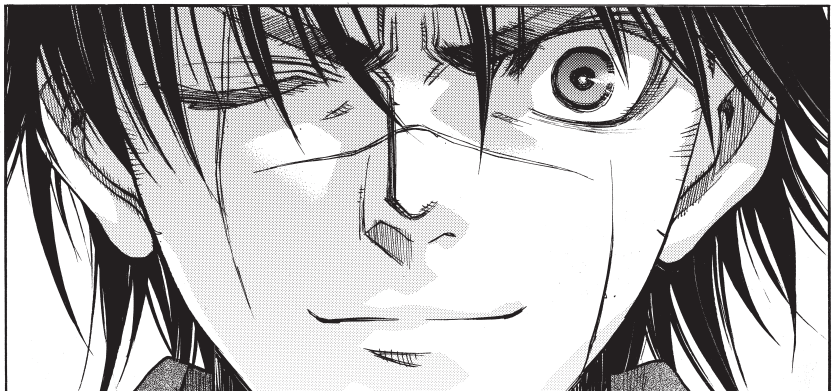
In Shiganshina District, the Survey Corps was preparing for its first expedition outside of the wall in 15 years. Kuklo snuck into the expedition's cargo wagon, but the Titan they ran across was far worse of a monster than he expected. He helped the Survey Corps survive, but inside the walls he was greeted by the Military Police, who wanted the "Titan's Son" on charges of murdering Dario. In prison, he met Cardina, a young man jailed over political squabbles. They hoped to escape to safety when exiled beyond the Wall, but found themselves surrounded by a pack of Titans. It was through the help of Jorge, former Survey Corps Captain and first human to defeat a Titan, that the two boys escaped with their lives. The equipment that Jorge used was the very "Device" that was the key to defeating the Titan those 15 years ago. Kuklo and Cardina escaped the notice of the MPs by hiding in the Industrial City, where they found Sharle. It is there that the three youngsters learned the truth of the ill-fated Titan-capturing expedition 15 years earlier, and swore to uphold the will of Angel, the inventor of the Device.

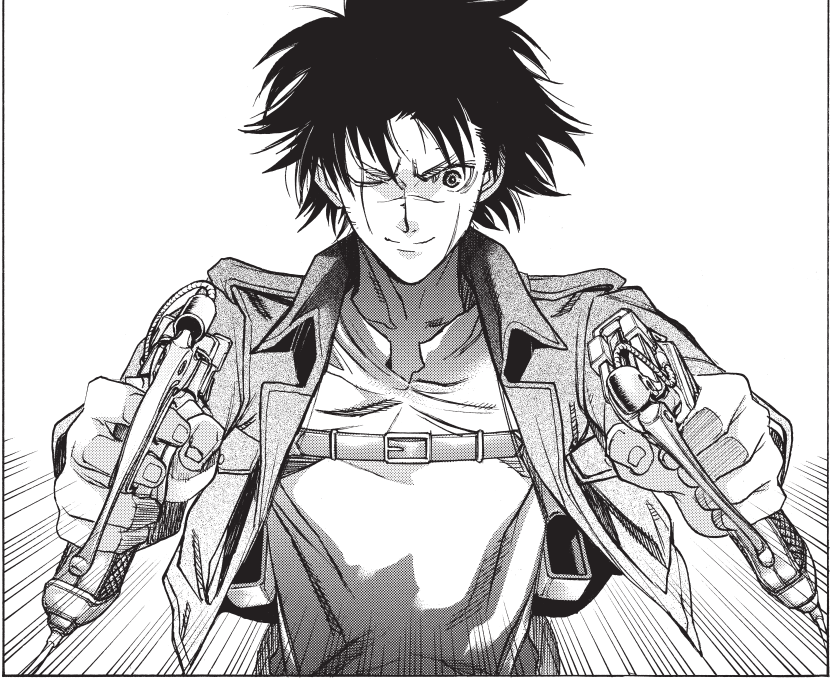
Next, Kuklo and Cardina headed back to Shiganshina to test out a new model of the Device developed by Xenophon, Angel's friend and rival, but while they were gone, a rebellion by anti-establishment dissidents broke out in the Industrial City. Kuklo was able to slip through the chaos to rescue Sharle from the dissidents, but then Sharle's brother Xavi arrived, now a member of the Military Police, and turned his sword on Kuklo. Xavi won the battle by inflicting a grievous blow on Kuklo, who fell into the river. Sharle was taken back to the Inocencio mansion, but following her belief that Kuklo was still alive, she escaped and headed underground to find Angel, hoping to convince him to help improve the Device.

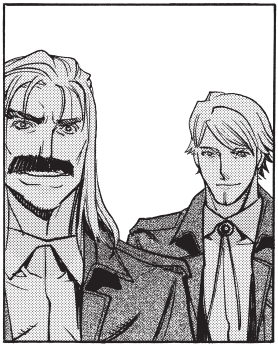
Kuklo survived his ordeal thanks to the help of Rosa, the daughter of Sorum, who lost his life on the fateful expedition 15 years earlier. After a month and a half of recovery, Kuklo accepted Jorge's offer of an assistant instructor position with the Survey Corps. Captain Carlo was recruiting future Survey Corps hopefuls from the Training Corps. One day, Sharle and Angel arrived at the training grounds. In addition to the delightful reunion, they brought even better news: the birth of the final model of the Device, the "Vertical Maneuvering Equipment."

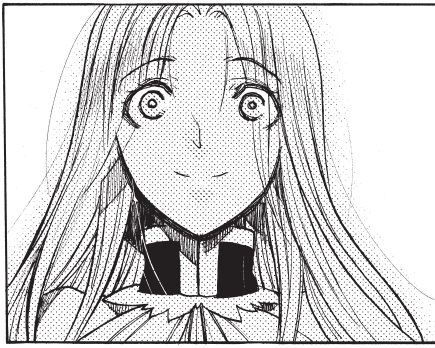


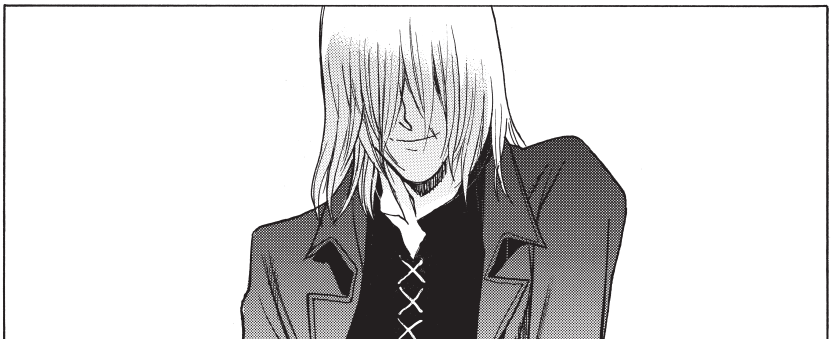


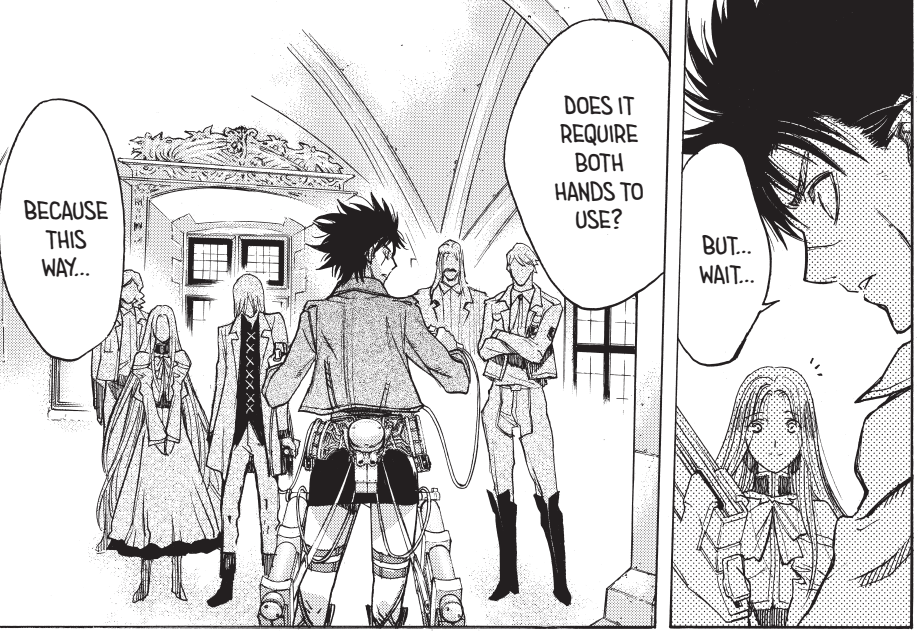


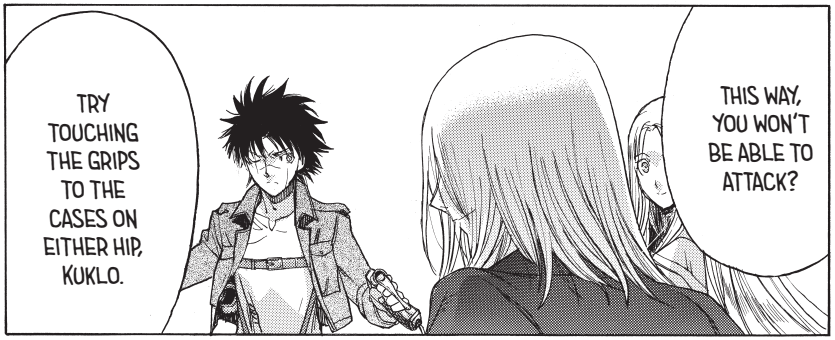


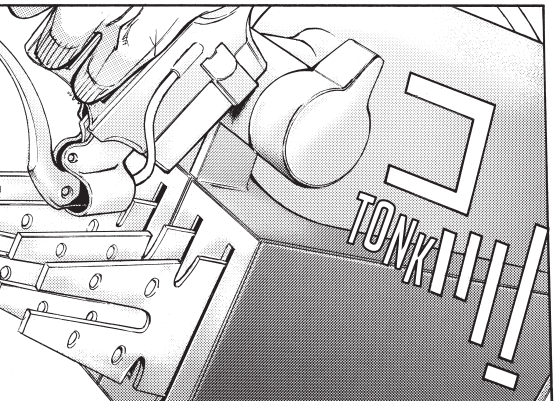






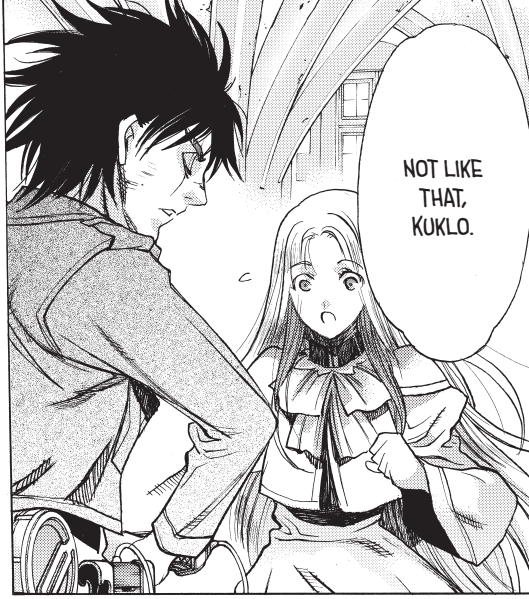

BECAUSE THIS WAY...
DOES IT REQUIRE BOTH HANDS TO USE?
BUT... WAIT...

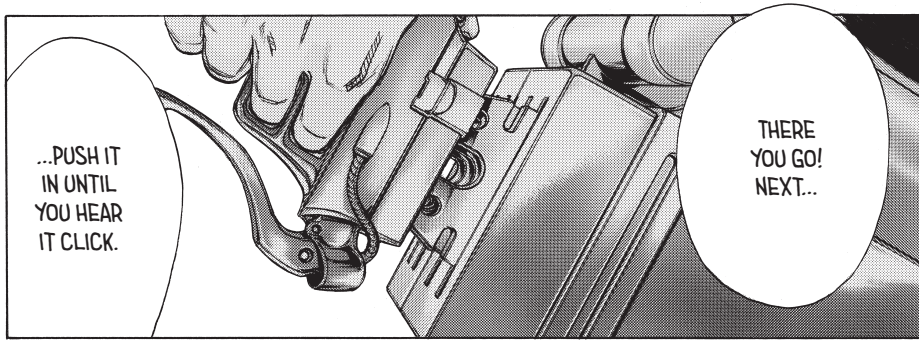

TRY TOUCHING THE GRIPS TO THE CASES ON EITHER HIP, KUKLO.
THIS WAY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTACK?

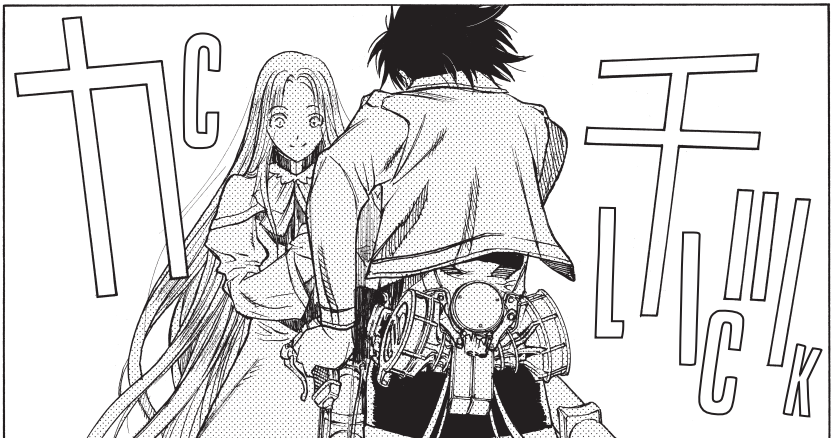

TONK!!!

HMM ...?

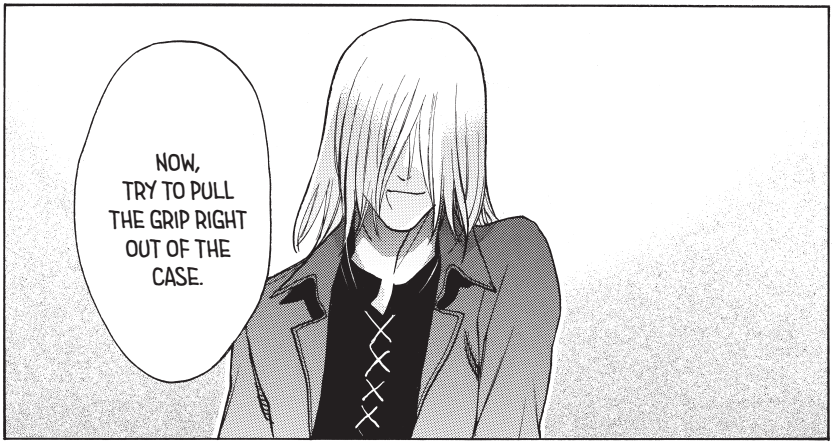
STICK THE SLIT ON THE TOP OF THE HANDLE OVER ONE OF THE ATTACH-MENTS PROTRUDING FROM THE CASE...

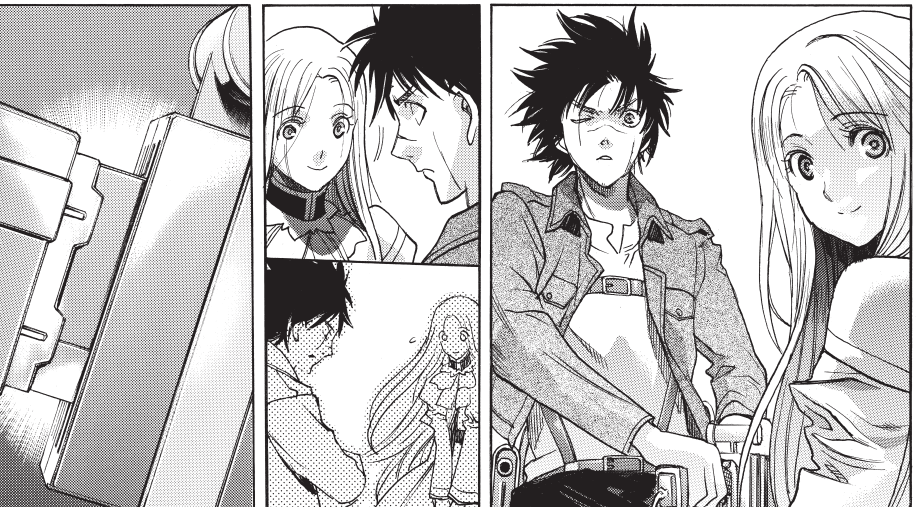

NOT LIKE THAT, KUKLO.

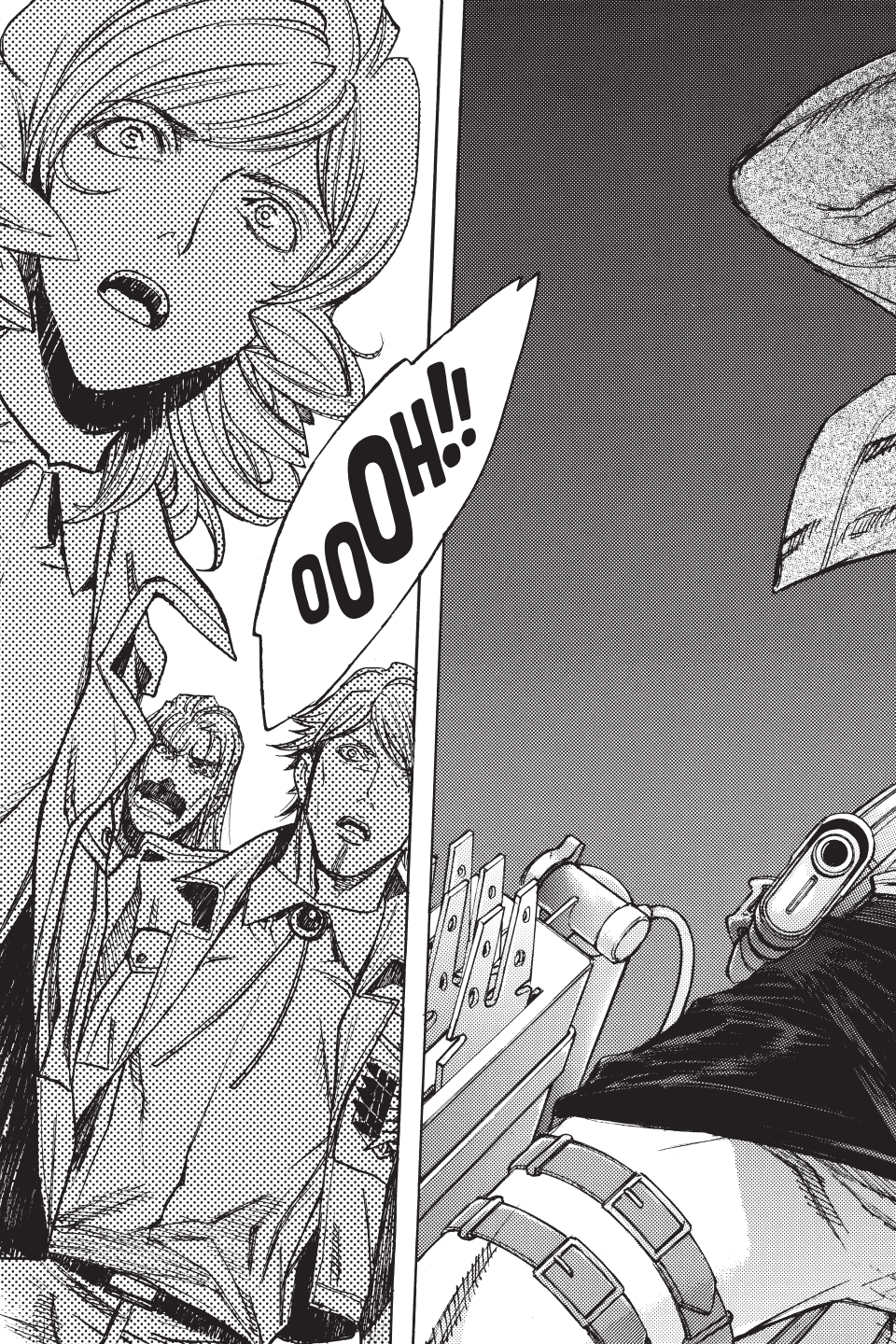

...PUSH IT IN UNTIL YOU HEAR IT CLICK.
THERE YOU GO! NEXT...


カC
チLICK

KUKLO...
AH, YES!
LIKE THIS?


NOW, TRY TO PULL THE GRIP RIGHT OUT OF THE CASE.




OOOH!!

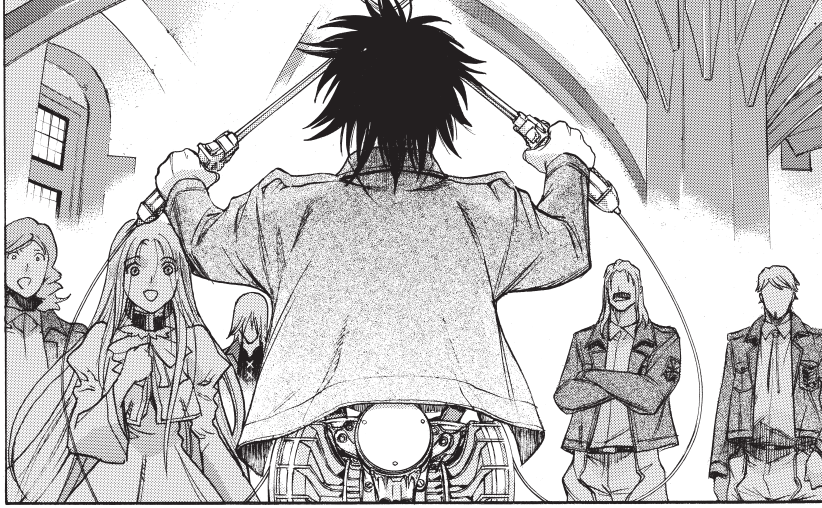
THAT'S THE **SNAP BLADE.**

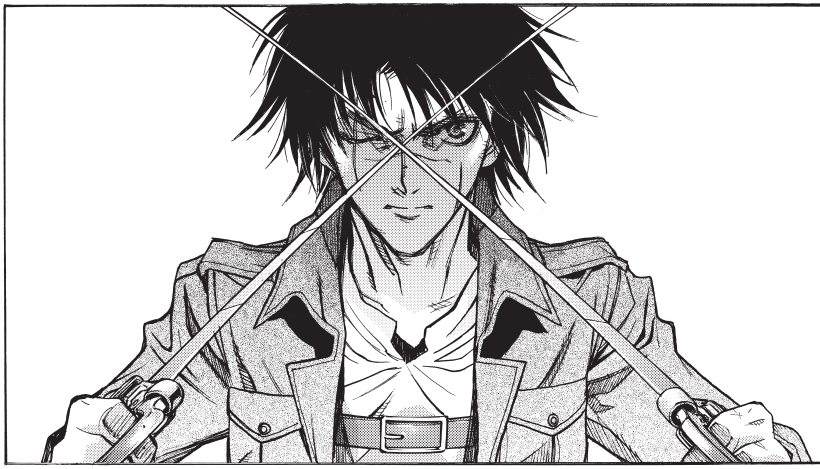
IT'S THE GREATEST ANTI-TITAN WEAPON CONCEIVABLE AT THIS POINT IN TIME.

...BUT...

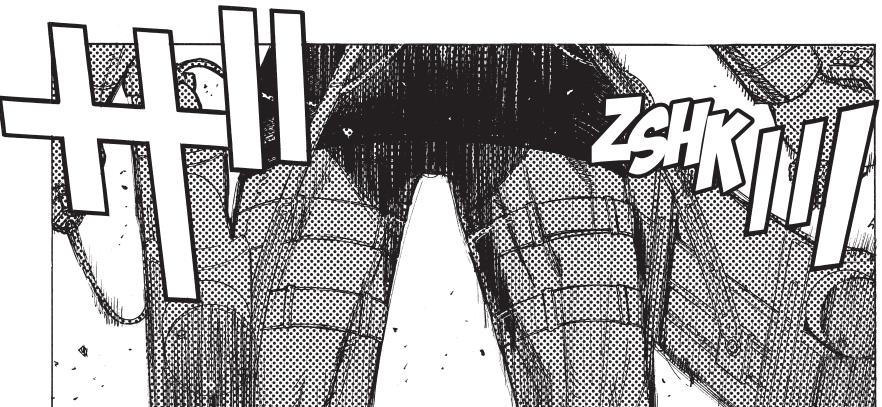
SHWANG
SHWANG
IT'S SO LIGHT!
IT'S ALSO MUCH THINNER AND FLIMSIER THAN ANY SWORD I'VE USED.
THAT'S AN ULTRA-HARD STEEL FORGED FROM TEMPERED IRON BAMBOO WITH A MIXTURE OF RARE METALS. XENOPHON SAYS IT'S HIS LIFE'S MASTERPIECE.
DON'T BE FOOLED BY ITS APPEAR-ANCE.

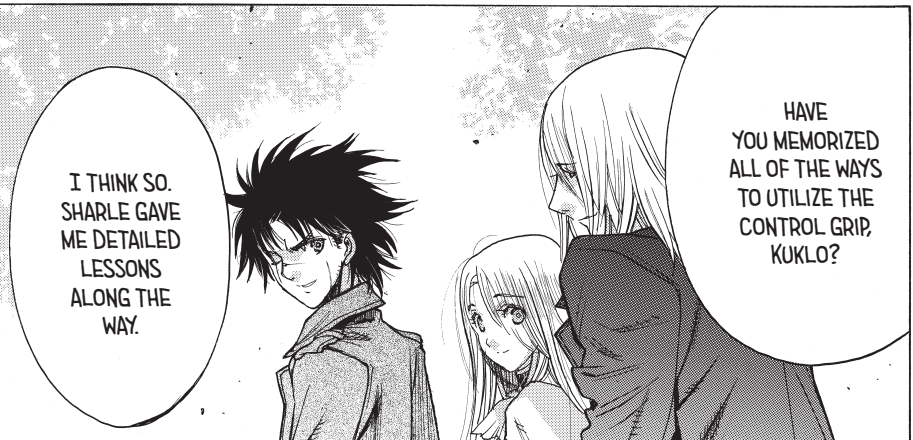
IF IT'S THE BEST THING FOREMAN XENOPHON'S EVER MADE...
...THAT'S ALL I NEED TO HEAR.
SHAK



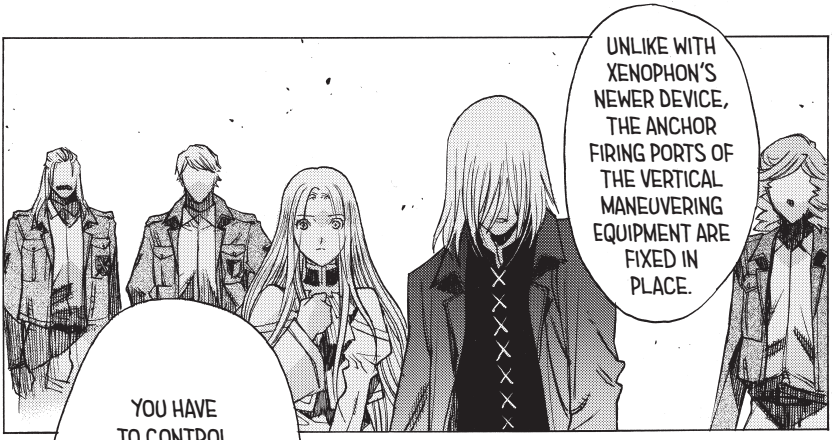


THE "VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT," YOU CALLED IT?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TESTING IT OUT.


ZSHK!!!


HAVE YOU MEMORIZED ALL OF THE WAYS TO UTILIZE THE CONTROL GRIP, KUKLO?
I THINK SO. SHARLE GAVE ME DETAILED LESSONS ALONG THE WAY.

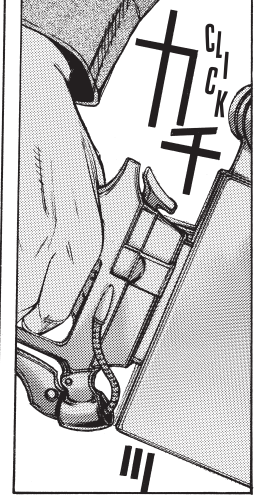
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO COMMIT THEM TO MUSCLE MEMORY THROUGH PRACTICAL USE.

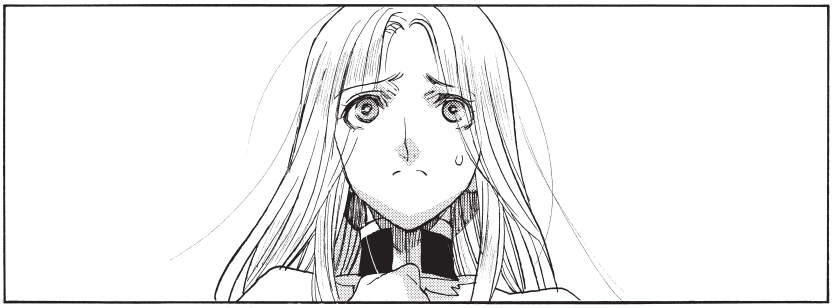

UNLIKE WITH XENOPHON'S NEWER DEVICE, THE ANCHOR FIRING PORTS OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT ARE FIXED IN PLACE.

YOU HAVE TO CONTROL THE FACING OF THE PORTS BY MANEUVERING YOUR BODY.

I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.
GOT IT.

SHAK
ヤッ


CLICK
カチ



THAK
PSHIIIOU
IIIMM

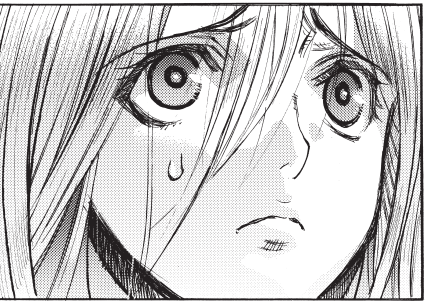
BSHA

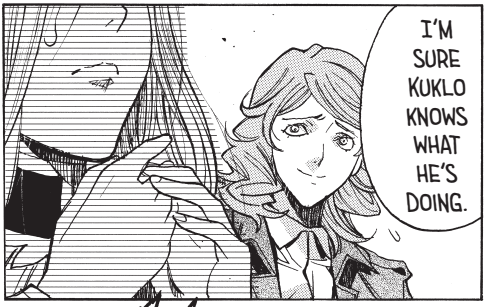
GR
EEEEE
HRRG
NOW THAT THE ANCHOR'S IN PLACE, BEFORE I REACH THE END POINT...
TUG
...I NEED TO SHOOT THE RIGHT ANCHOR, AT THE SAME TIME AS...
PSHT

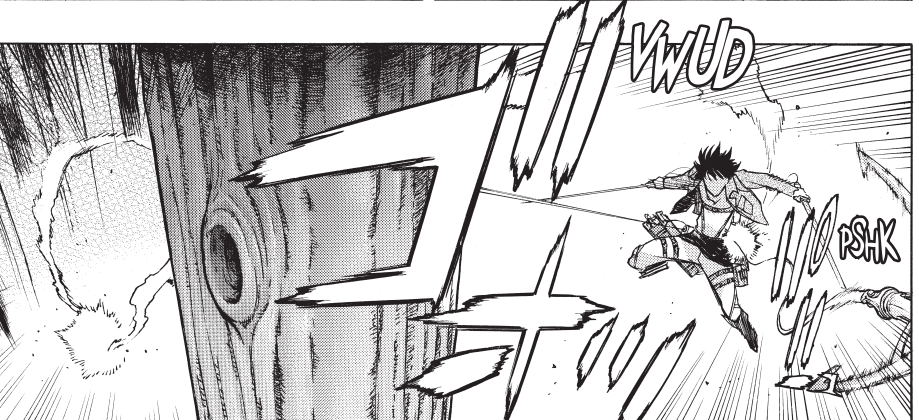
...I PULL THE OTHER LOOSE!!
GHUNK
SHAK
GUNK
!!

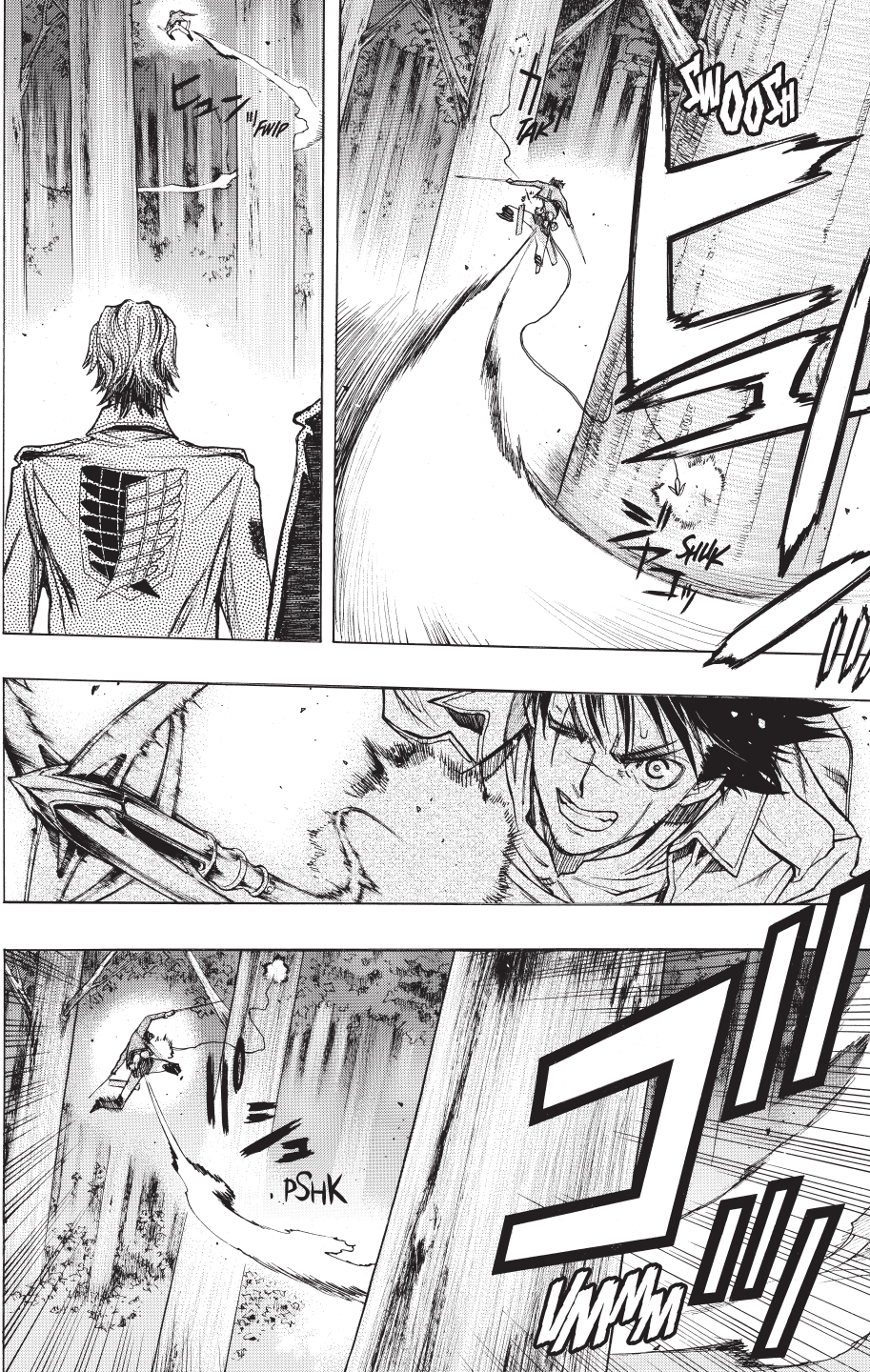
HRRG...
OH!
ガキン
BFOOM
GREEEEE

GITETOTET!

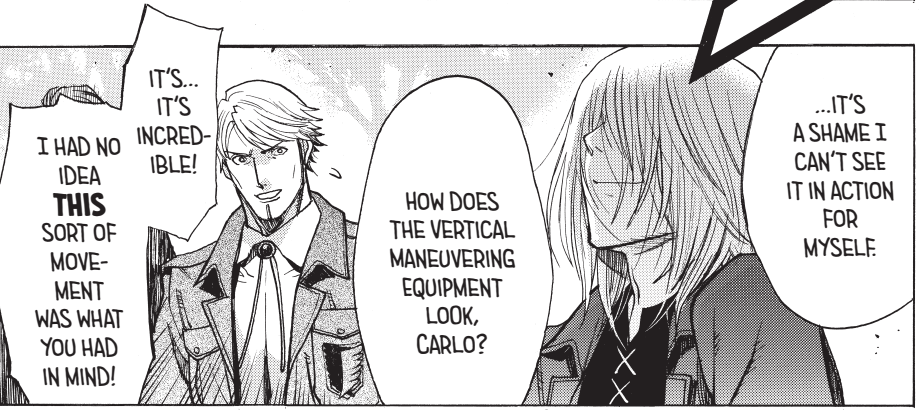


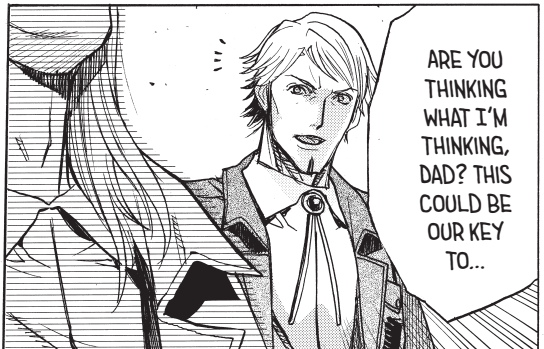

I'M SURE KUKLO KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

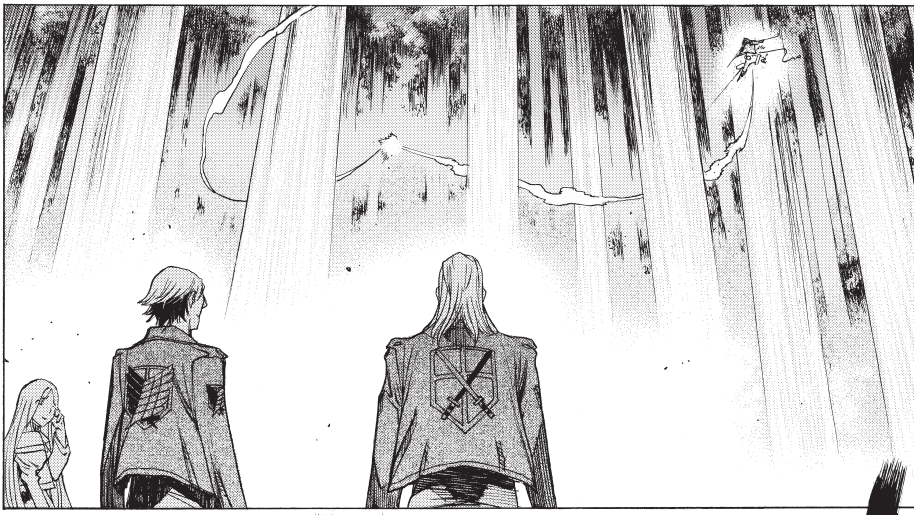

VWUD
PSHK


FWIP
TAK
SWOOSH
SHUK
PSHK
VMMM

GREEENG
ティ

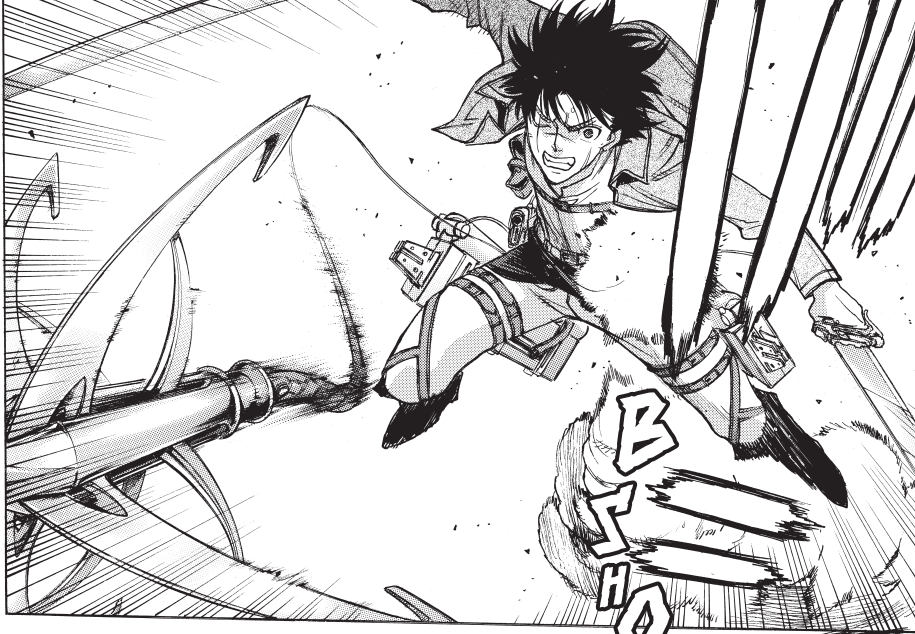

I HAD NO IDEA **THIS** SORT OF MOVE-MENT WAS WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND!
IT'S... IT'S INCRED-IBLE!
HOW DOES THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT LOOK, CARLO?
...IT'S A SHAME I CAN'T SEE IT IN ACTION FOR MYSELF.

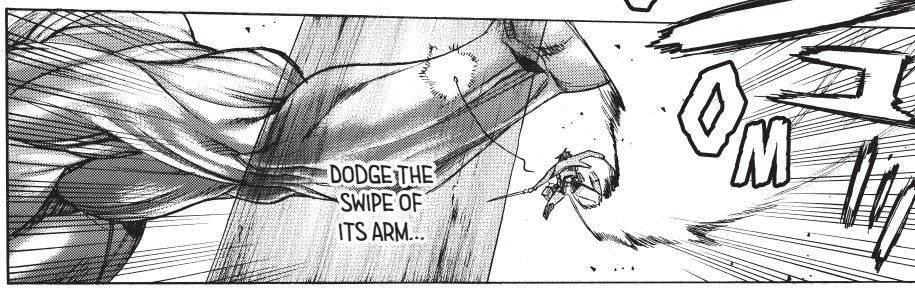

ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING, DAD? THIS COULD BE OUR KEY TO...



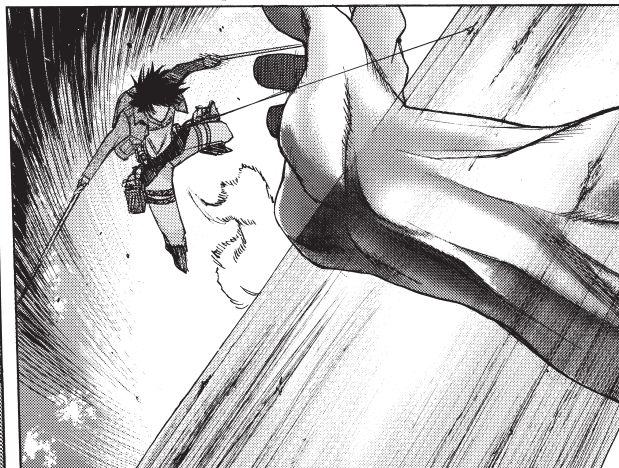
GREATE

MUST BE FASTER !!!
NOT THERE YET...


BOOM

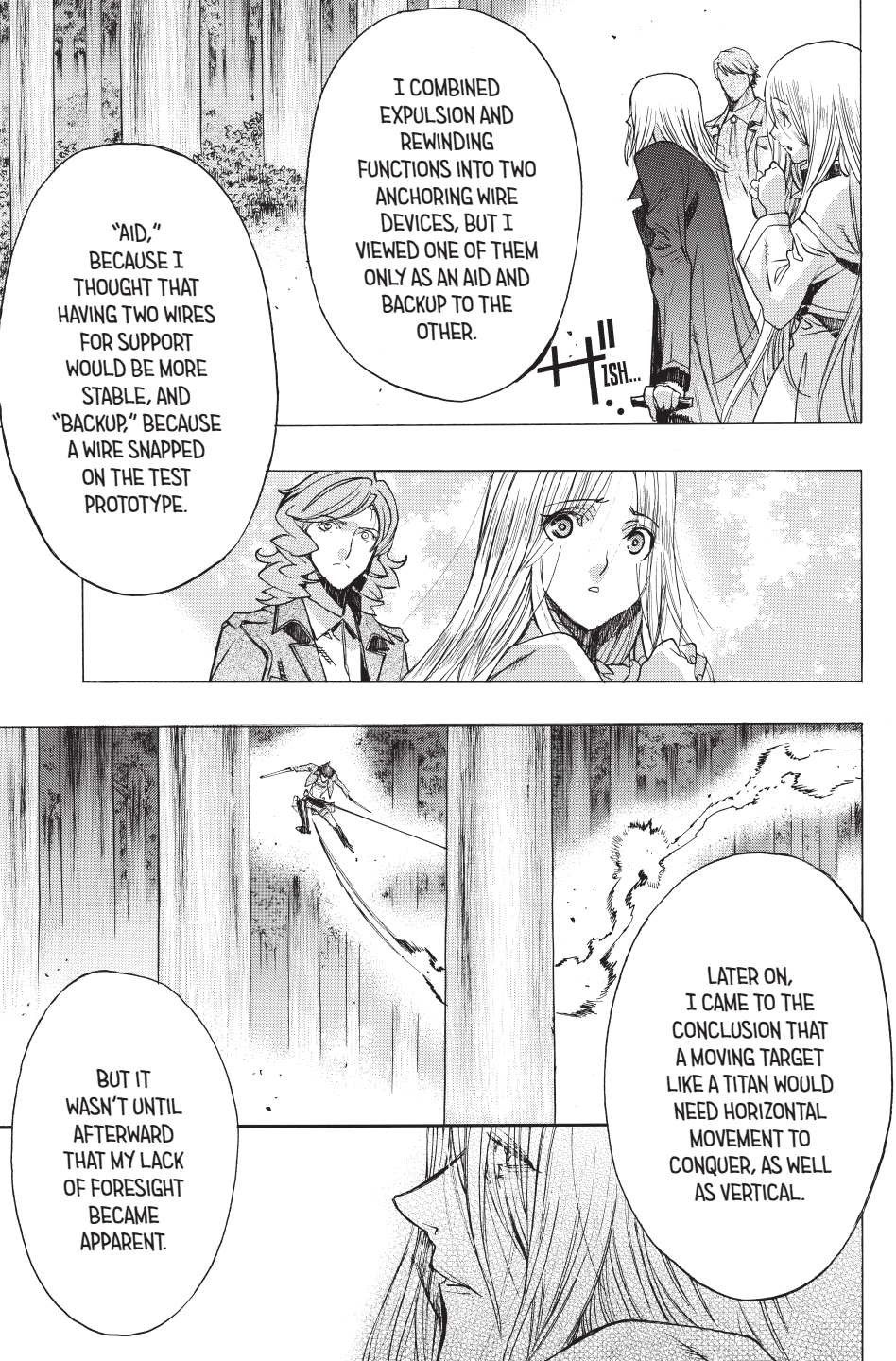

DODGE THE SWIPE OF ITS ARM...

SWING AROUND BEHIND IT...

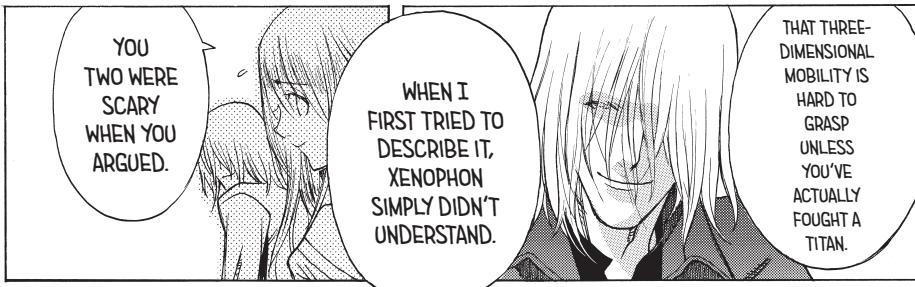


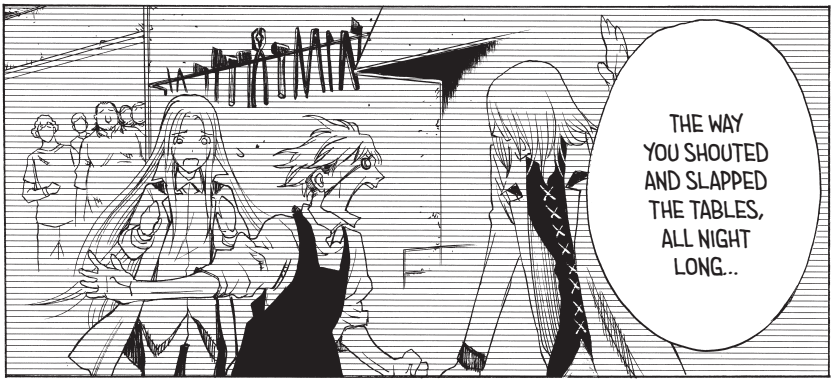
...AND SEVER THE NECK !!!

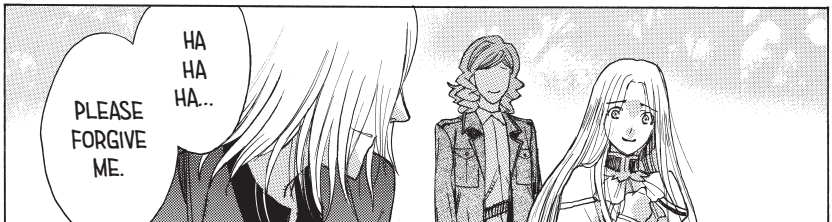
SHAK
THE DEVICE I BUILT 15 YEARS AGO...
...WAS DESIGNED WITH VERTICAL MOVEMENT IN MIND, TO ALLOW A SOLDIER TO FIGHT AT THE HEIGHT OF A TITAN.

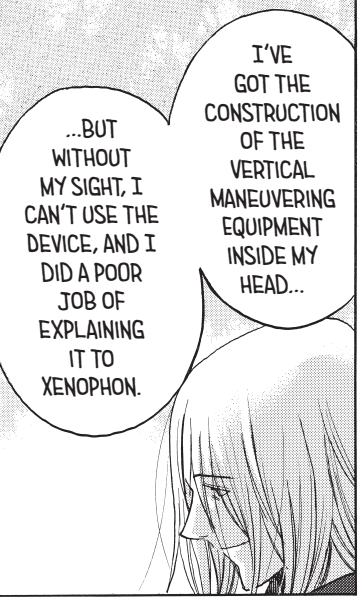

I COMBINED EXPULSION AND REWINDING FUNCTIONS INTO TWO ANCHORING WIRE DEVICES, BUT I VIEWED ONE OF THEM ONLY AS AN AID AND BACKUP TO THE OTHER.
"AID," BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT HAVING TWO WIRES FOR SUPPORT WOULD BE MORE STABLE, AND "BACKUP," BECAUSE A WIRE SNAPPED ON THE TEST PROTOTYPE.
ISH...
LATER ON, I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A MOVING TARGET LIKE A TITAN WOULD NEED HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT TO CONQUER, AS WELL AS VERTICAL.
BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL AFTERWARD THAT MY LACK OF FORESIGHT BECAME APPARENT.

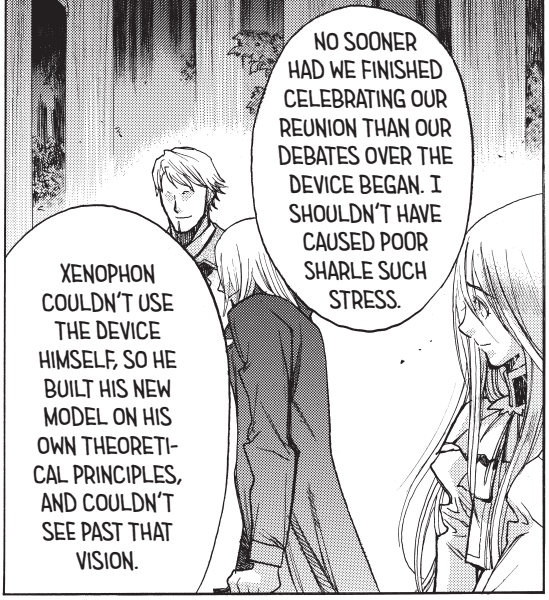
WHAT HE'S DOING ISN'T SIMPLY VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT.
I, TOO, UNDERSTAND AT LAST.

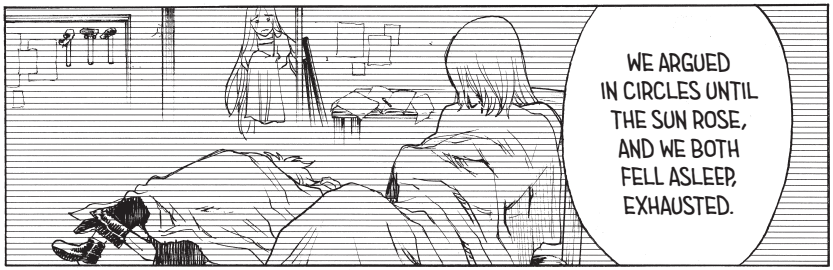

YOU TWO WERE SCARY WHEN YOU ARGUED.
WHEN I FIRST TRIED TO DESCRIBE IT, XENOPHON SIMPLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
THAT THREE-DIMENSIONAL MOBILITY IS HARD TO GRASP UNLESS YOU'VE ACTUALLY FOUGHT A TITAN.

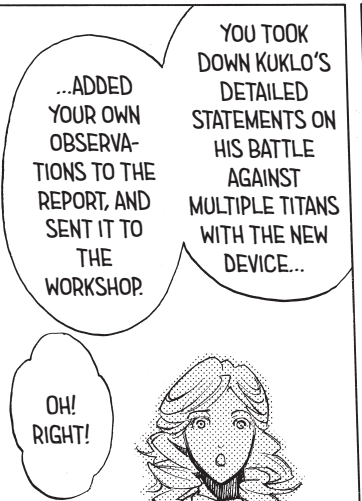

THE WAY YOU SHOUTED AND SLAPPED THE TABLES, ALL NIGHT LONG...


HA HA HA...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

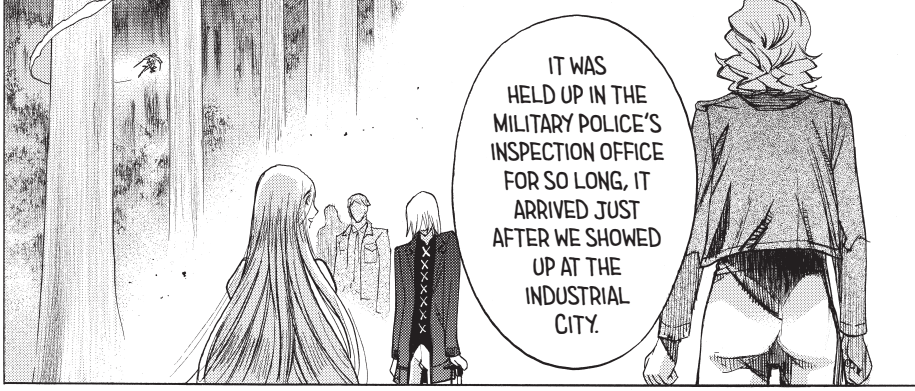

I'VE GOT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT INSIDE MY HEAD...
...BUT WITHOUT MY SIGHT, I CAN'T USE THE DEVICE, AND I DID A POOR JOB OF EXPLAINING IT TO XENOPHON.

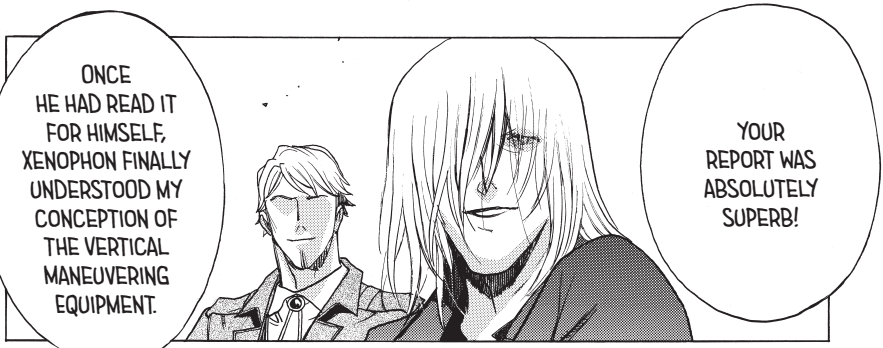

NO SOONER HAD WE FINISHED CELEBRATING OUR REUNION THAN OUR DEBATES OVER THE DEVICE BEGAN. I SHOULDN'T HAVE CAUSED POOR SHARLE SUCH STRESS.
XENOPHON COULDN'T USE THE DEVICE HIMSELF, SO HE BUILT HIS NEW MODEL ON HIS OWN THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES, AND COULDN'T SEE PAST THAT VISION.

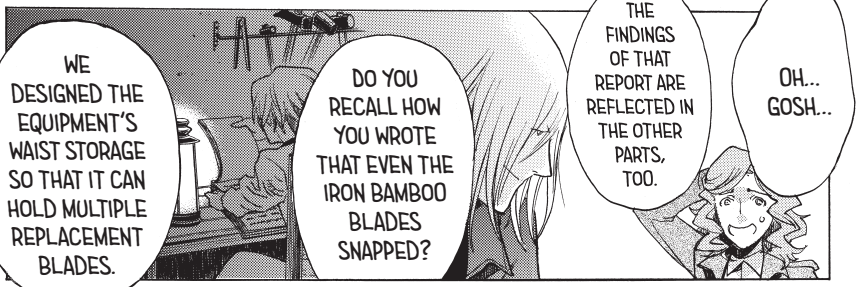

WE ARGUED IN CIRCLES UNTIL THE SUN ROSE, AND WE BOTH FELL ASLEEP, EXHAUSTED.

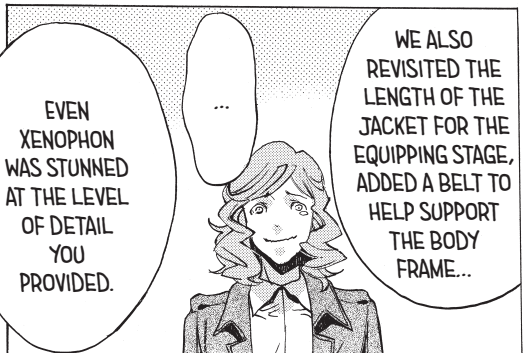

YOU TOOK DOWN KUKLO'S DETAILED STATEMENTS ON HIS BATTLE AGAINST MULTIPLE TITANS WITH THE NEW DEVICE...
...ADDED YOUR OWN OBSERVATIONS TO THE REPORT, AND SENT IT TO THE WORKSHOP.
OH! RIGHT!

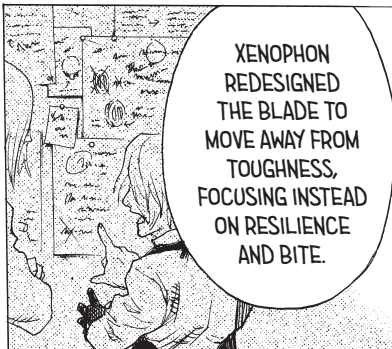
THAT WAS WHEN WE RECEIVED CARDINA'S REPORT.
HUH? ME?!


IT WAS HELD UP IN THE MILITARY POLICE'S INSPECTION OFFICE FOR SO LONG, IT ARRIVED JUST AFTER WE SHOWED UP AT THE INDUSTRIAL CITY.

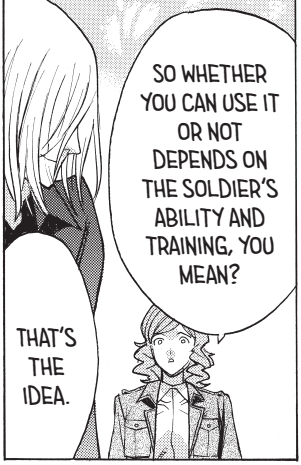

ONCE HE HAD READ IT FOR HIMSELF, XENOPHON FINALLY UNDERSTOOD MY CONCEPTION OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.
YOUR REPORT WAS ABSOLUTELY SUPERB!

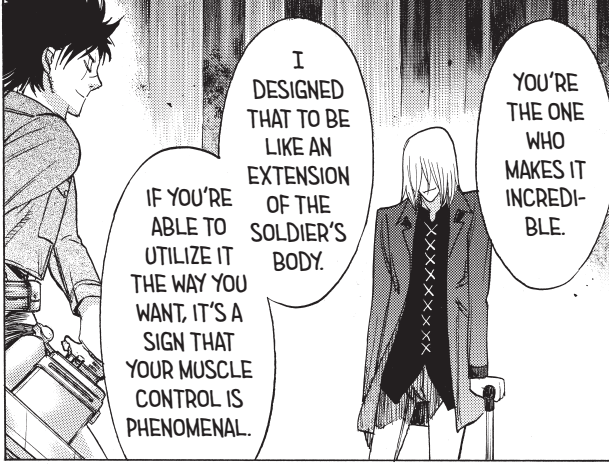

WE DESIGNED THE EQUIPMENT'S WAIST STORAGE SO THAT IT CAN HOLD MULTIPLE REPLACEMENT BLADES.
DO YOU RECALL HOW YOU WROTE THAT EVEN THE IRON BAMBOO BLADES SNAPPED?
THE FINDINGS OF THAT REPORT ARE REFLECTED IN THE OTHER PARTS, TOO.
OH... GOSH...

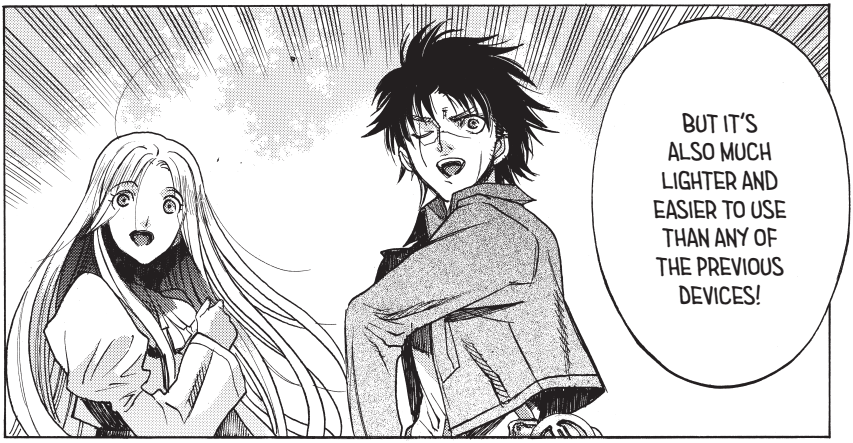

EVEN XENOPHON WAS STUNNED AT THE LEVEL OF DETAIL YOU PROVIDED.
...
WE ALSO REVISITED THE LENGTH OF THE JACKET FOR THE EQUIPPING STAGE, ADDED A BELT TO HELP SUPPORT THE BODY FRAME...

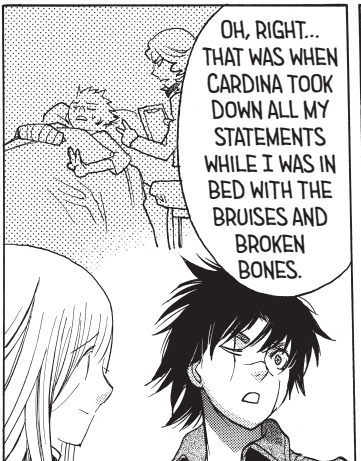

XENOPHON REDESIGNED THE BLADE TO MOVE AWAY FROM TOUGHNESS, FOCUSING INSTEAD ON RESILIENCE AND BITE.

STOMP
KUKLO !!
THIS VERTICAL MANEU-VERING EQUIPMENT IS INCREDI-BLE!!
IT MOVES JUST THE WAY I WANT IT TO!!


SO WHETHER YOU CAN USE IT OR NOT DEPENDS ON THE SOLDIER'S ABILITY AND TRAINING, YOU MEAN?
THAT'S THE IDEA.


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MAKES IT INCREDIBLE.
I DESIGNED THAT TO BE LIKE AN EXTENSION OF THE SOLDIER'S BODY.
IF YOU'RE ABLE TO UTILIZE IT THE WAY YOU WANT, IT'S A SIGN THAT YOUR MUSCLE CONTROL IS PHENOMENAL.


BUT IT'S ALSO MUCH LIGHTER AND EASIER TO USE THAN ANY OF THE PREVIOUS DEVICES!


OH, RIGHT... THAT WAS WHEN CARDINA TOOK DOWN ALL MY STATEMENTS WHILE I WAS IN BED WITH THE BRUISES AND BROKEN BONES.

IT WAS VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE THAT DETAILED ACCOUNT OF KUKLO'S BATTLE AGAINST MULTIPLE TITANS.
INDEED. THAT MUCH IS CLEAR JUST FROM WATCHING.
!

INDEED. BOTH KUKLO AND CARDINA ARE A GREAT CREDIT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT!

BUT JUST AS IMPORT-ANT...

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH USE THOSE DETAILS WOULD BE WITHOUT CARDINA PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER LIKE THAT.

ALL I DID WAS TELL HIM EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED DURING THE BATTLE.

!

...WAS THE HARD WORK OF SHARLE, WHICH DESERVES RECOGNI-TION!

WHAT DID LADY SHARLE DO?

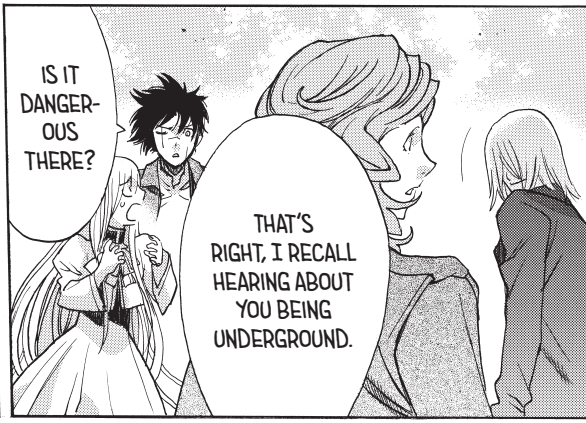
?

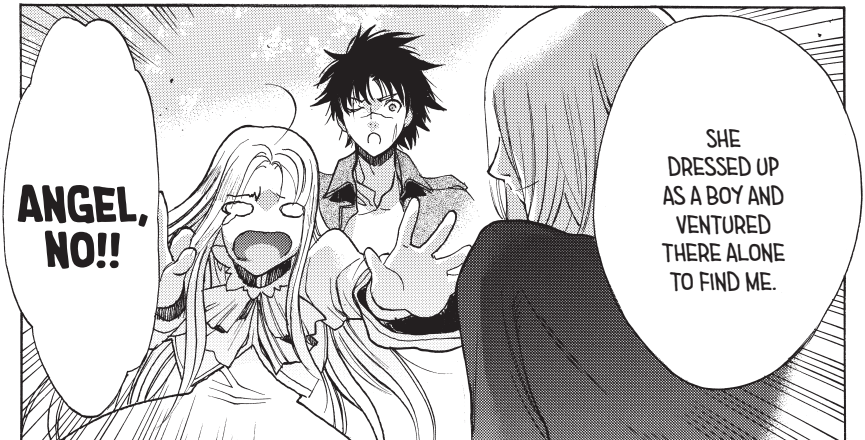
?

SHARLE?

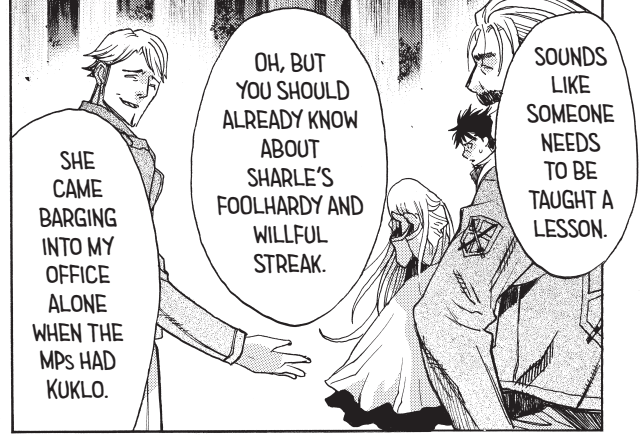
I WAS WASTING AWAY IN THE UNDERGROUND DISTRICT, WAITING FOR MY DEMISE, AND IT WAS HER PASSION FOR THE DEVICE'S DEVELOPMENT THAT BROUGHT ME BACK.

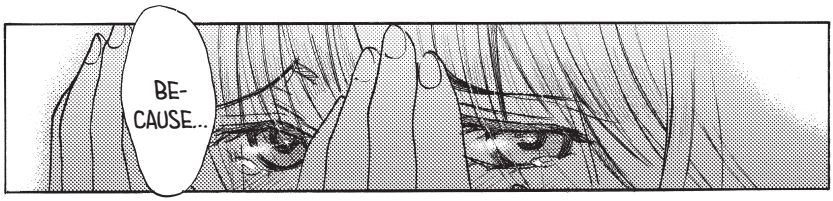
I'VE HEARD IT'S A LAWLESS PLACE, INHABITED ONLY BY CRIMINALS AND WHORES.

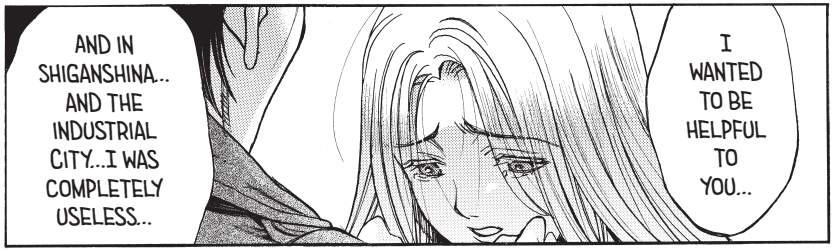

IS IT DANGEROUS THERE?
THAT'S RIGHT, I RECALL HEARING ABOUT YOU BEING UNDERGROUND.

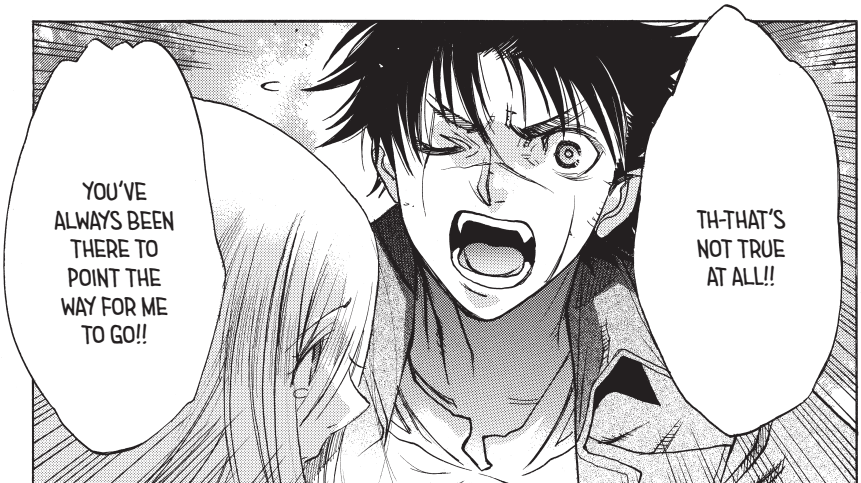

ANGEL, NO!!
SHE DRESSED UP AS A BOY AND VENTURED THERE ALONE TO FIND ME.

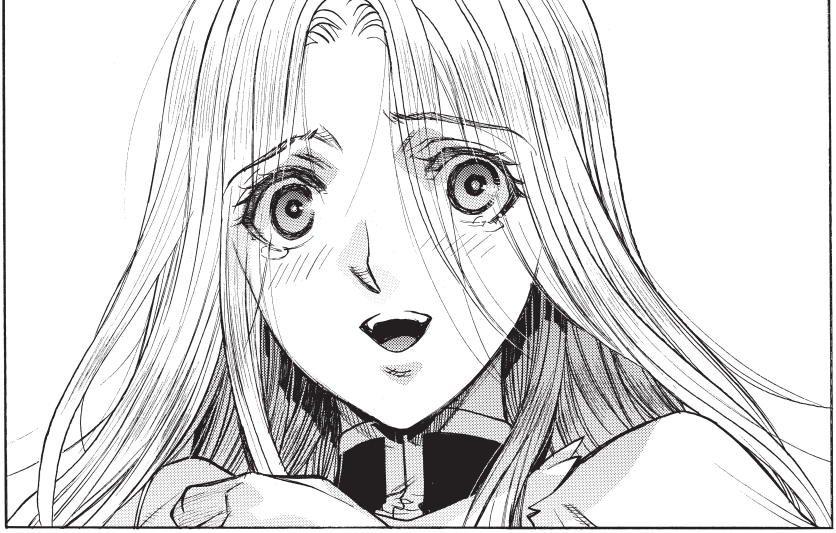
SHARLE... WHY WOULD YOU PUT YOURSELF IN SUCH DANGER ...?

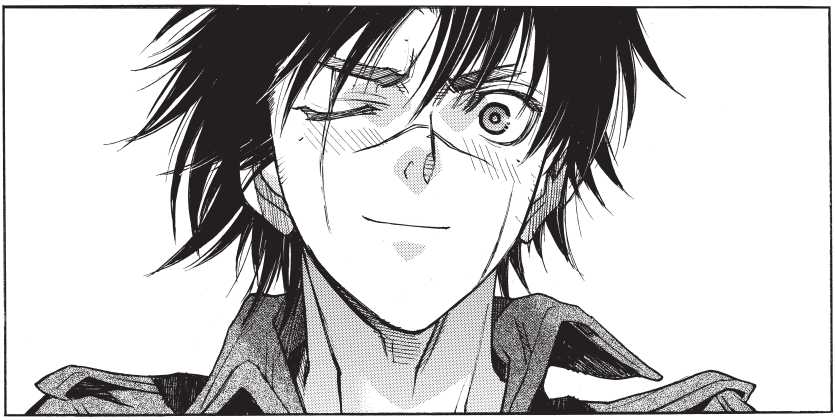

SHE CAME BARGING INTO MY OFFICE ALONE WHEN THE MPs HAD KUKLO.
OH, BUT YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW ABOUT SHARLE'S FOOLHARDY AND WILLFUL STREAK.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON.


BE-CAUSE...


AND IN SHIGANSHINA... AND THE INDUSTRIAL CITY...I WAS COMPLETELY USELESS...
I WANTED TO BE HELPFUL TO YOU...


YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE TO POINT THE WAY FOR ME TO GO!!
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!!





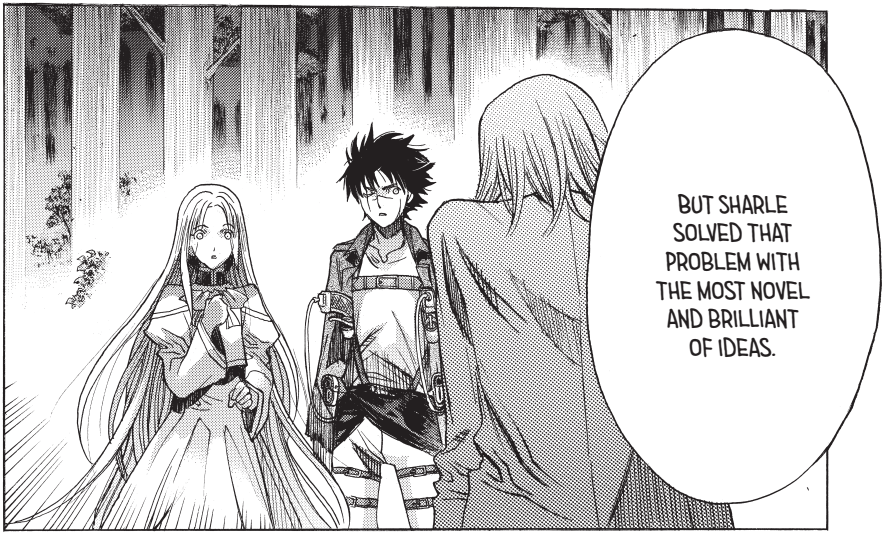
AND ON TOP OF THAT, SHARLE IS AN EXTREMELY TALENTED AND PROMISING INVENTOR.

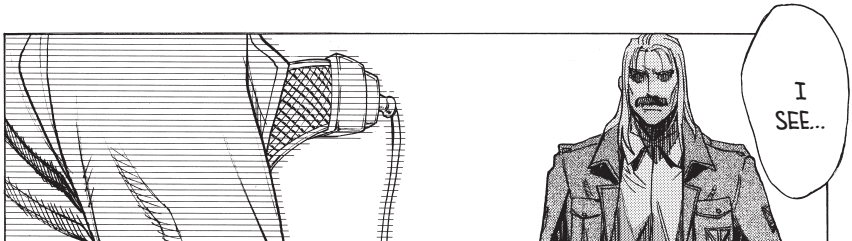
WHEN I OFFERED HER MY PRAISE EARLIER, IT WASN'T JUST FOR GETTING ME BACK ON MY FEET.
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO FILLED THE FINAL PIECE IN THE PUZZLE THAT WAS THE DEVICE'S FUNCTIONAL DESIGN.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING THAT I ENVISIONED WITH THE DEVICE INVOLVED SIMULTANEOUS OPERATION OF BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT WIRES.

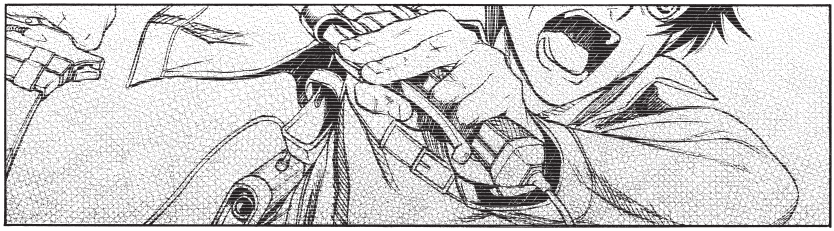
BUT TO USE ONE'S WEAPON WITH THE DOMINANT HAND REQUIRED A COMPRESSED CONTROL SCHEME THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR ONE HAND TO OPERATE BOTH WIRES.

EVEN IF THAT WERE PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE, THE LEARNING PROCESS TO OPERATE TWO WIRES WITH ONE HAND IS SIMPLY TOO DAUNTING AND ALIEN.





BY TURNING THE SWORD INTO A CONTROL MECHANISM...



OF COURSE. A SOLDIER WOULD JUST ASSUME THAT A SWORD IS A SWORD, AND THE DEVICE IS THE DEVICE.

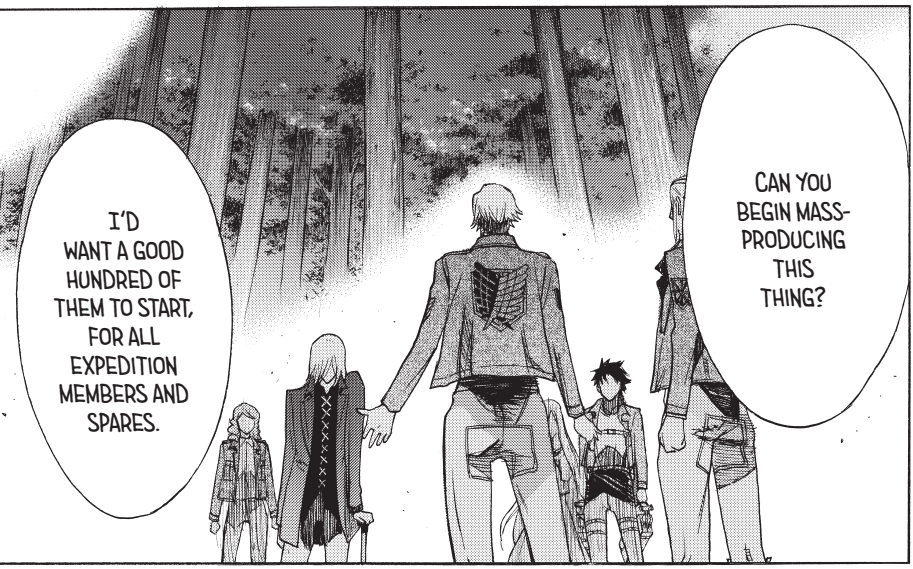
A CRAFTS-MAN WOULD ASSUME THE SAME.

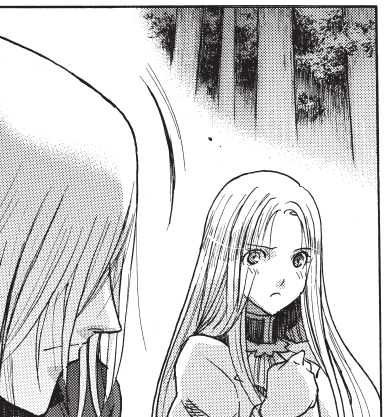
WHEN I TOLD XENOPHON ABOUT THIS IDEA, HE WAS STUNNED INTO SILENCE. WHEN I REVEALED THAT IT WAS SHARLE'S, HE WAS DEVASTATED.

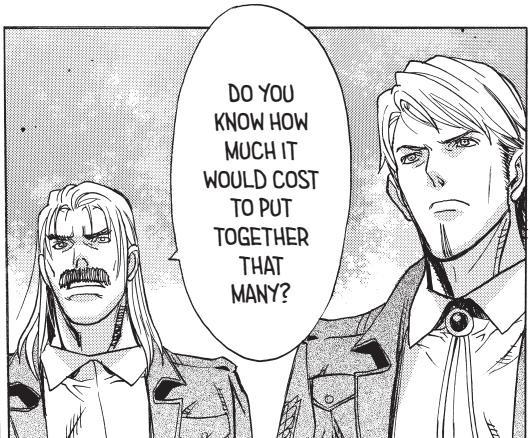
I WAS ONCE THE "KING OF INVENTIONS," AND I HAD TO LAUGH THAT THIS IDEA NEVER EVEN FLICKERED THROUGH MY THICK SKULL.

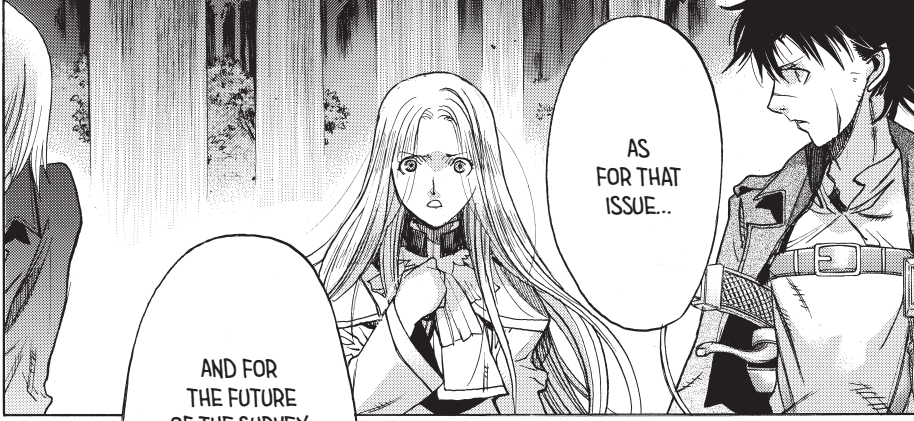
IF IT WEREN'T FOR SHARLE, THERE WOULD BE NO VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.
I KNEW IT! I KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU!

THE BIG QUESTION IS...

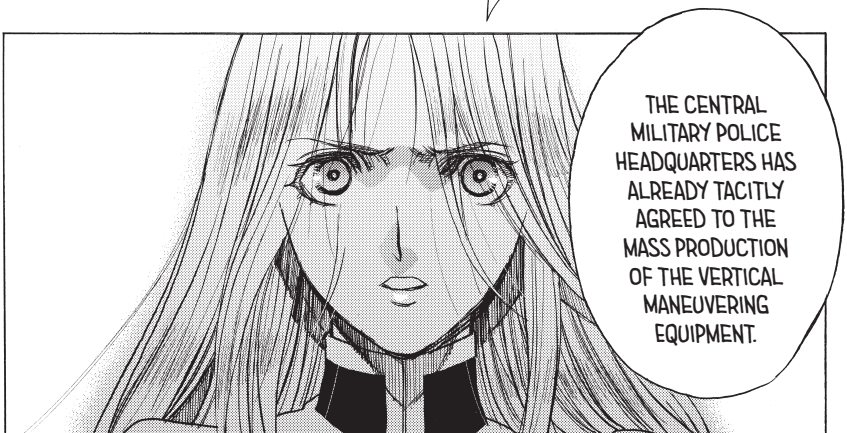

CAN YOU BEGIN MASS-PRODUCING THIS THING?
I'D WANT A GOOD HUNDRED OF THEM TO START, FOR ALL EXPEDITION MEMBERS AND SPARES.

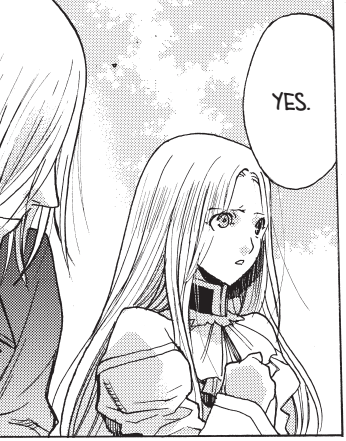


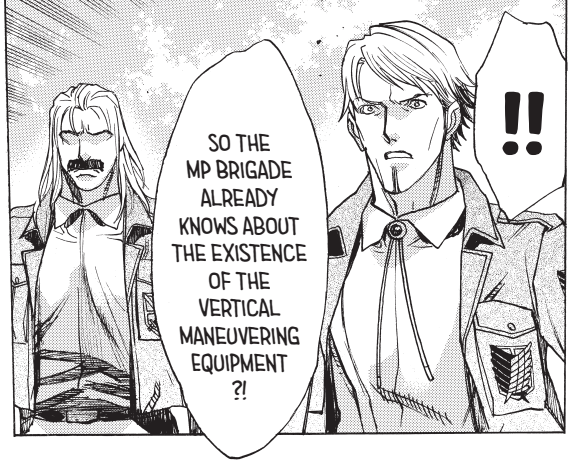

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST TO PUT TOGETHER THAT MANY?

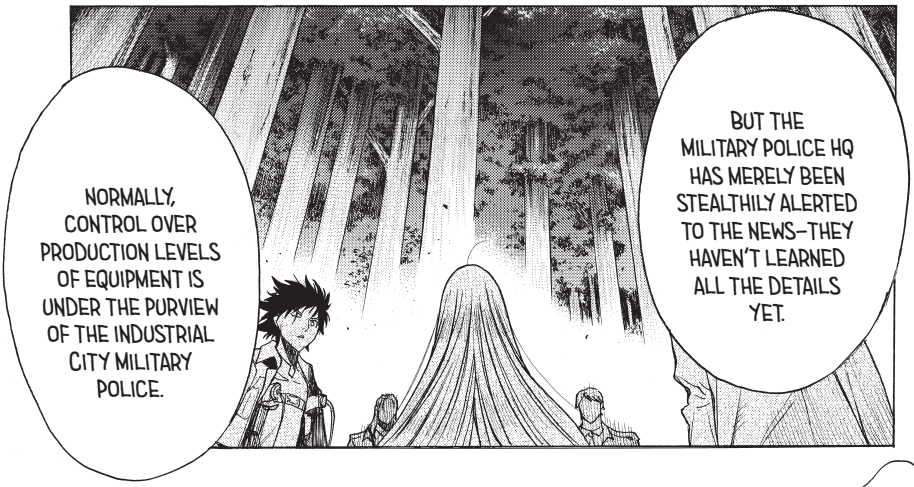

AS FOR THAT ISSUE...

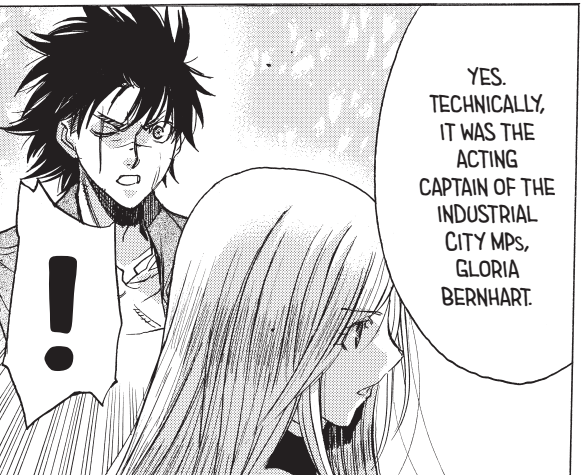
AND FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SURVEY CORPS ALTOGETHER... WE HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER TO DISCUSS.
?!!

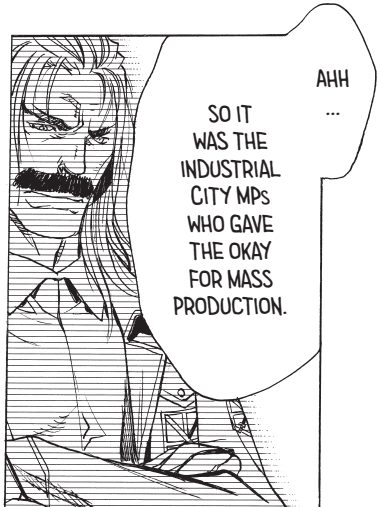

THE CENTRAL MILITARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS HAS ALREADY TACITLY AGREED TO THE MASS PRODUCTION OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.


YES.

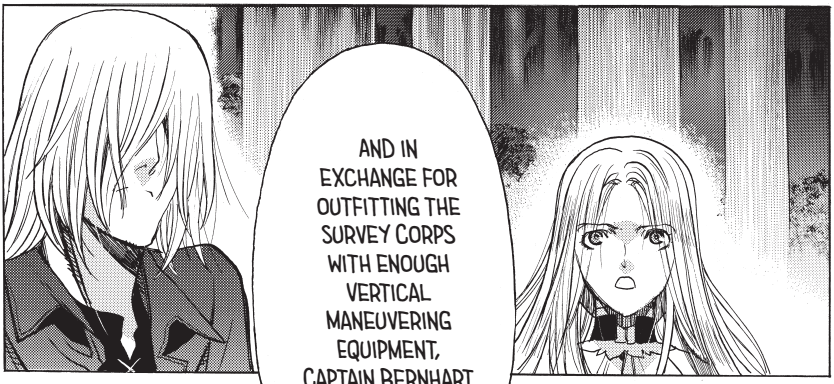

!!
SO THE MP BRIGADE ALREADY KNOWS ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT ?!

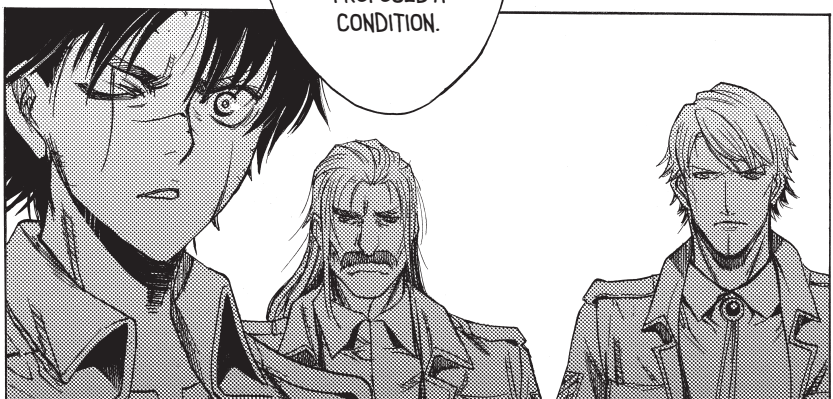

NORMALLY, CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION LEVELS OF EQUIPMENT IS UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE INDUSTRIAL CITY MILITARY POLICE.
BUT THE MILITARY POLICE HQ HAS MERELY BEEN STEALTHILY ALERTED TO THE NEWS—THEY HAVEN'T LEARNED ALL THE DETAILS YET.


!
YES. TECHNICALLY, IT WAS THE ACTING CAPTAIN OF THE INDUSTRIAL CITY MPs, GLORIA BERNHART.

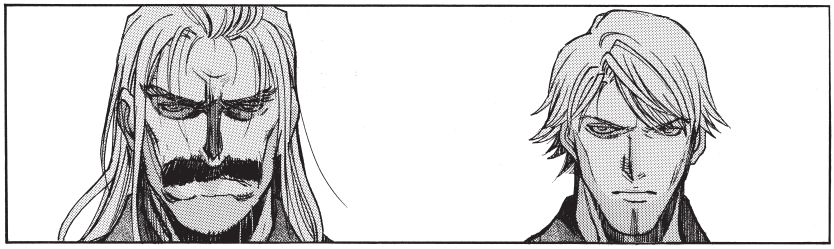

AHH ...
SO IT WAS THE INDUSTRIAL CITY MPs WHO GAVE THE OKAY FOR MASS PRODUCTION.

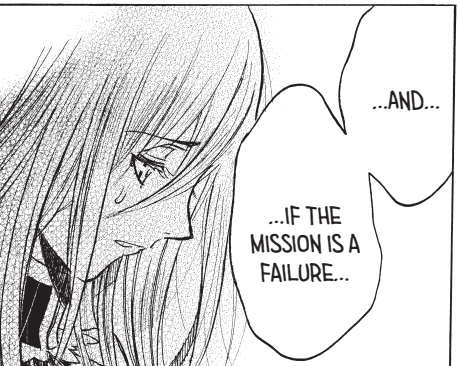
WHO IS ALSO THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIGANSHINA DISTRICT MP BRIGADE...


AND IN EXCHANGE FOR OUTFITTING THE SURVEY CORPS WITH ENOUGH VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT, CAPTAIN BERNHART PROPOSED A CONDITION.



TWO MONTHS FROM NOW, THE SURVEY CORPS WILL CONDUCT AN EXPEDITION BEYOND THE WALLS, AND BRING BACK PROOF OF A DEFEATED TITAN, WITH THE HELP OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.





...THE SURVEY CORPS WILL BE PERMANENTLY DISBANDED AS OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE EXPEDITION.

!

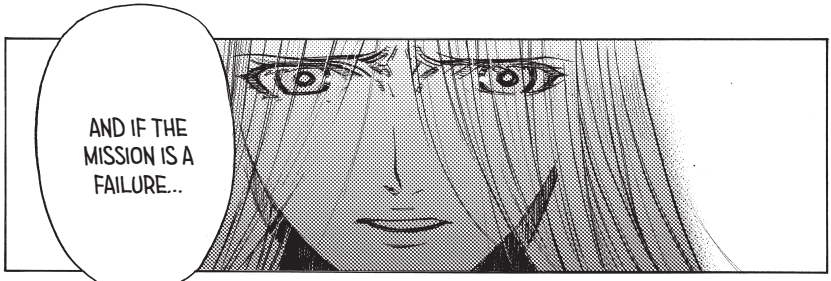
WHAT ...?

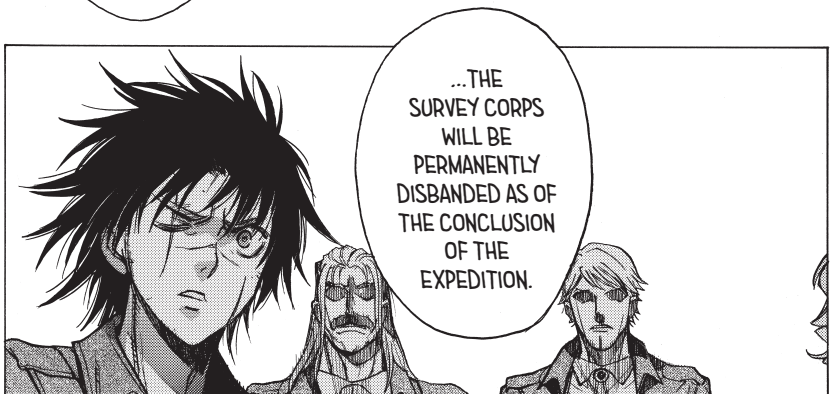
Chapter 45: Wings of the Bulwark · End

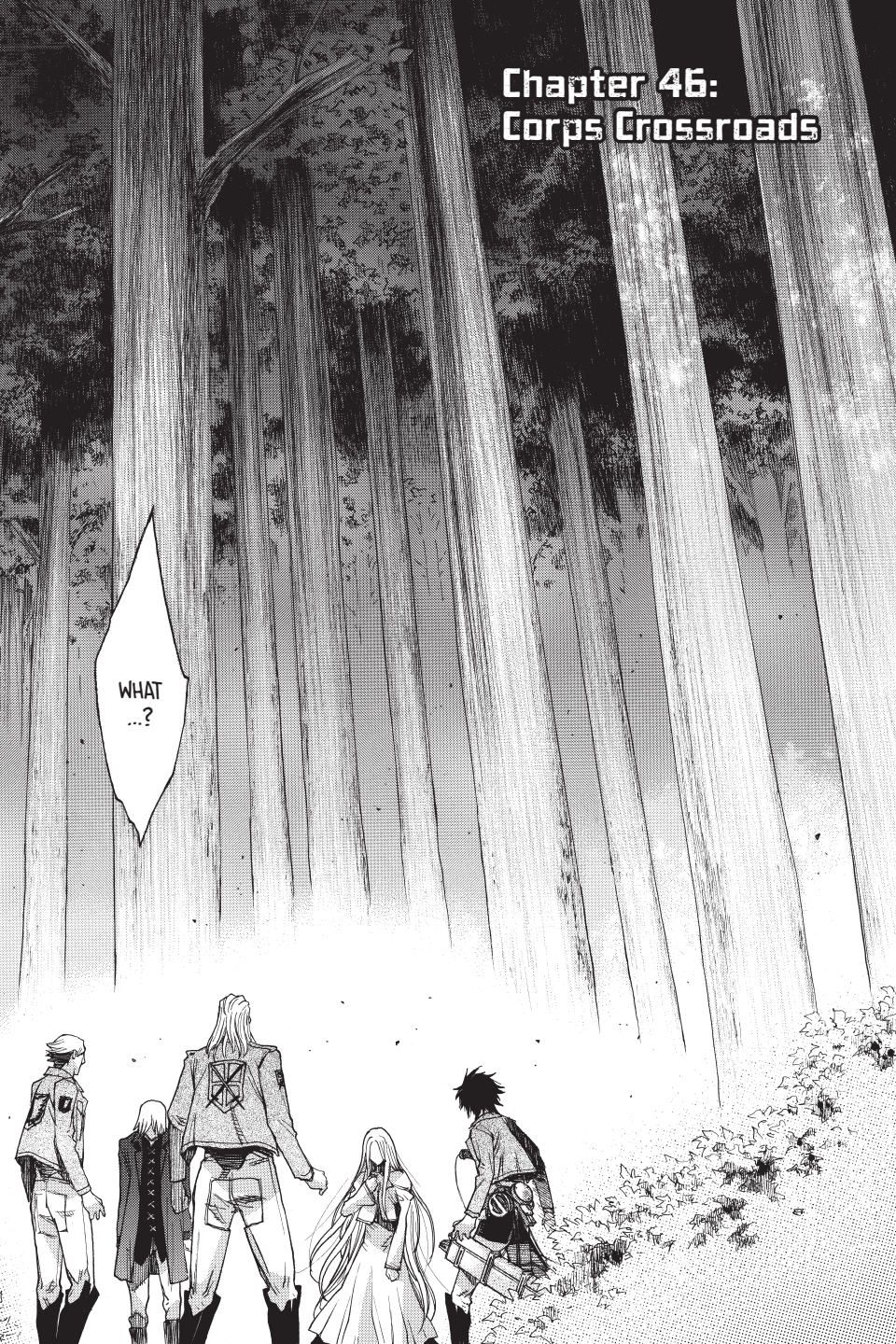
ATTACK ON TITAN

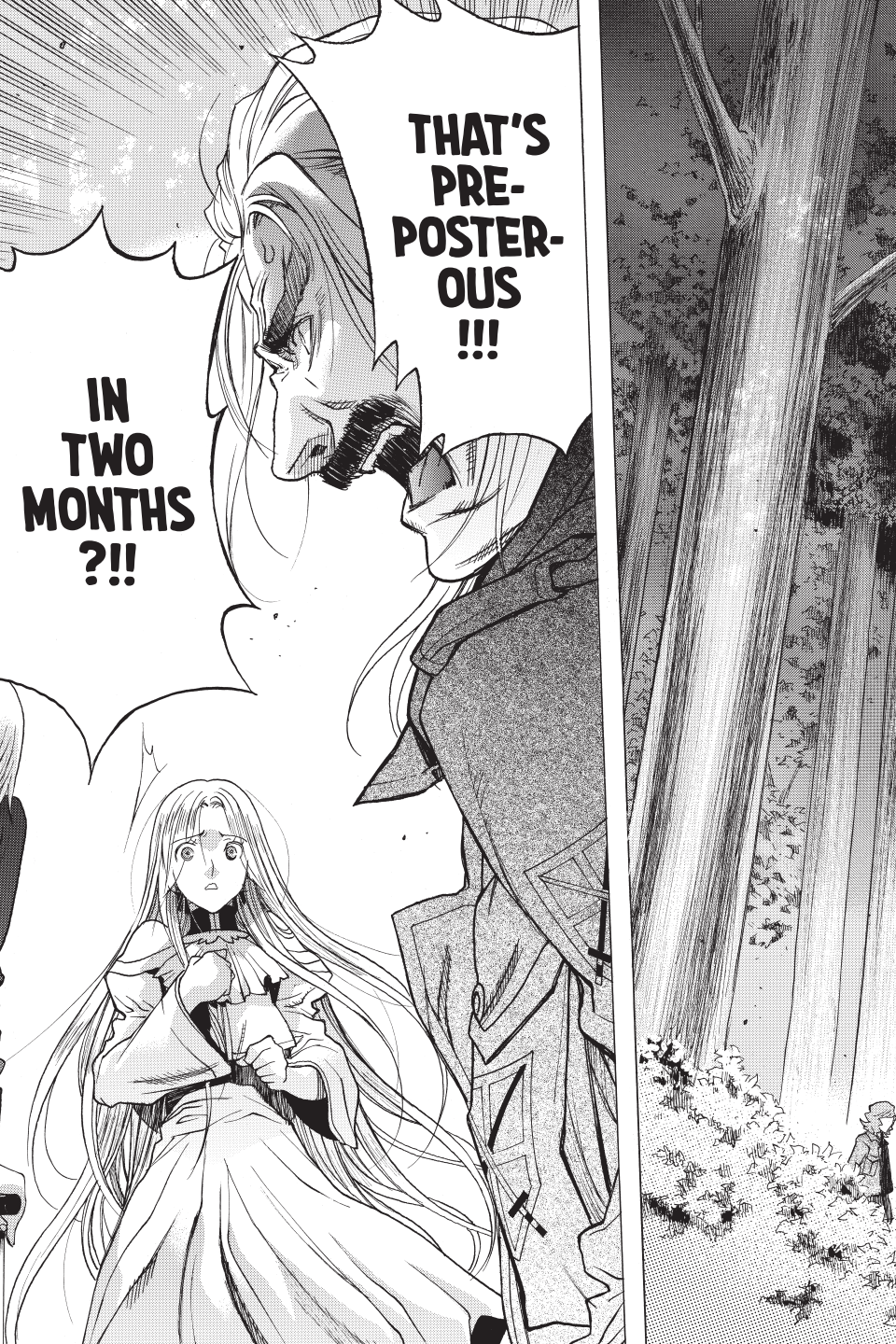
BEFORE THE FALL

TWO MONTHS FROM NOW, THE SURVEY CORPS WILL CONDUCT AN EXPEDITION BEYOND THE WALLS, AND BRING BACK PROOF OF A DEFEATED TITAN, WITH THE HELP OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.


AND IF THE MISSION IS A FAILURE...


...THE SURVEY CORPS WILL BE PERMANENTLY DISBANDED AS OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE EXPEDITION.


Chapter 46:
Corps Crossroads
WHAT ...?


THAT'S PRE-POSTER-OUS !!!
IN TWO MONTHS ?!!

FLINCH

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LEAD AN EXPEDITION JUST AFTER WELCOMING NEW RECRUITS?!!

...!!

DON'T SHOUT AT SHARLE. IT'S NOT HER FAULT.

INSTRUCTOR JORGE, PLEASE ...

...OF COURSE. I'M SORRY...

UM... SHALL WE RETURN TO THE BARRACKS NOW?

IT'S STARTING TO GET DARK OUTSIDE.

ER... GOOD IDEA!

I'M SURE ANGEL AND SHARLE WOULD LIKE SOME DINNER, TOO.

WE CAN TALK MORE ABOUT THIS OVER FOOD, DAD... I MEAN, INSTRUCTOR JORGE.

UH... YES...

A HOT MEAL! THAT WOULD DO WONDERS.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE MISSED LUNCH BACK IN SHIGANSHINA DISTRICT.

RIGHT, SHARLE?

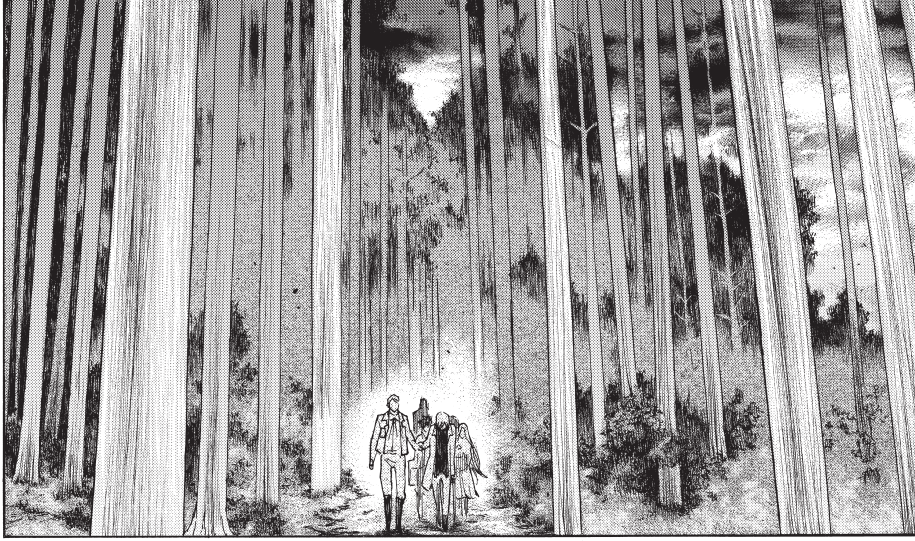
BUT KNOWING HOW TIGHT THE SURVEY CORPS ARE ON FUNDS, I'M NOT EXPECTING MUCH IN THE WAY OF GOURMET COOKING.

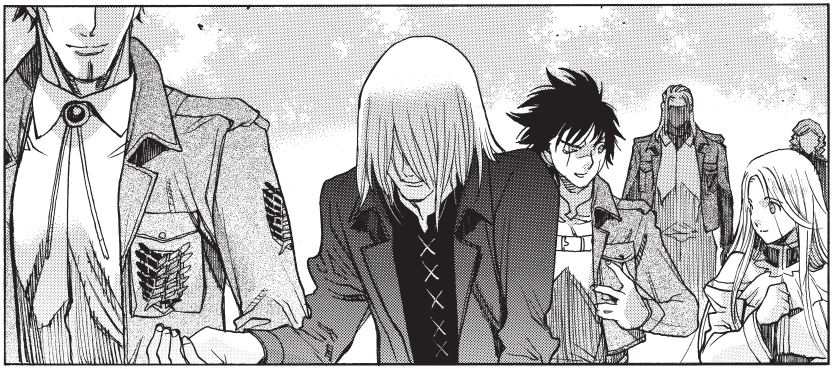
DO YOU WANT BAD FOOD, OR NOTHING AT ALL?!

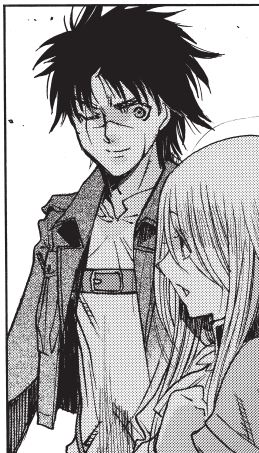
AND I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT WE MAKE THE MOST OF OUR FOOD SUPPLIES.

A SOLDIER'S BODY IS HIS GREATEST ASSET.

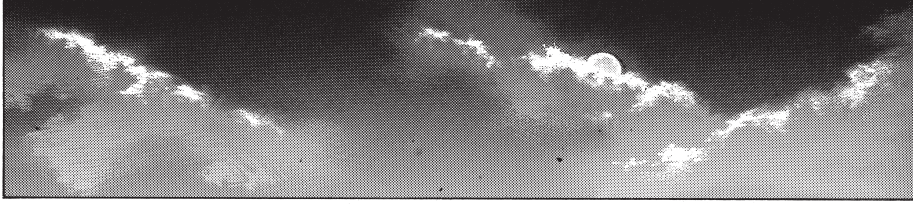
HA HA HA

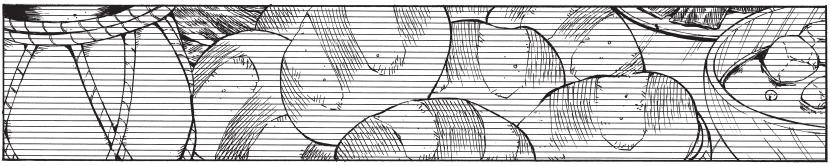


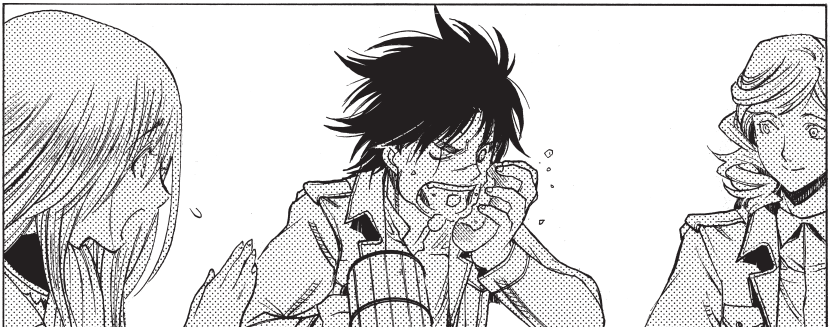


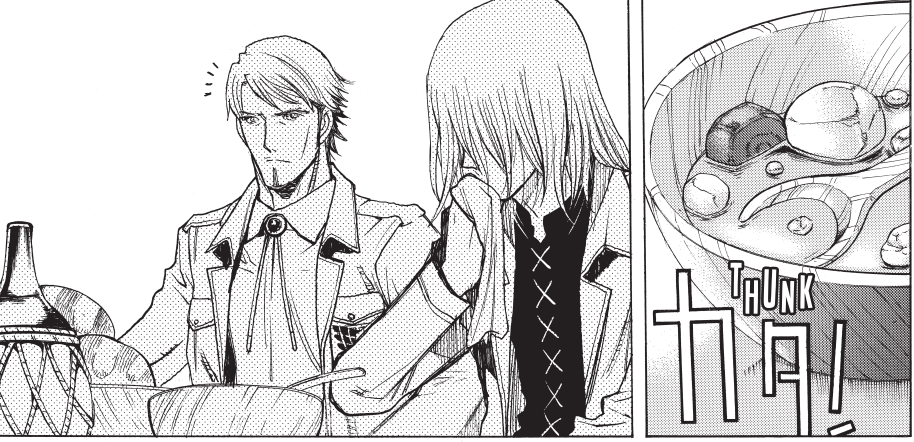


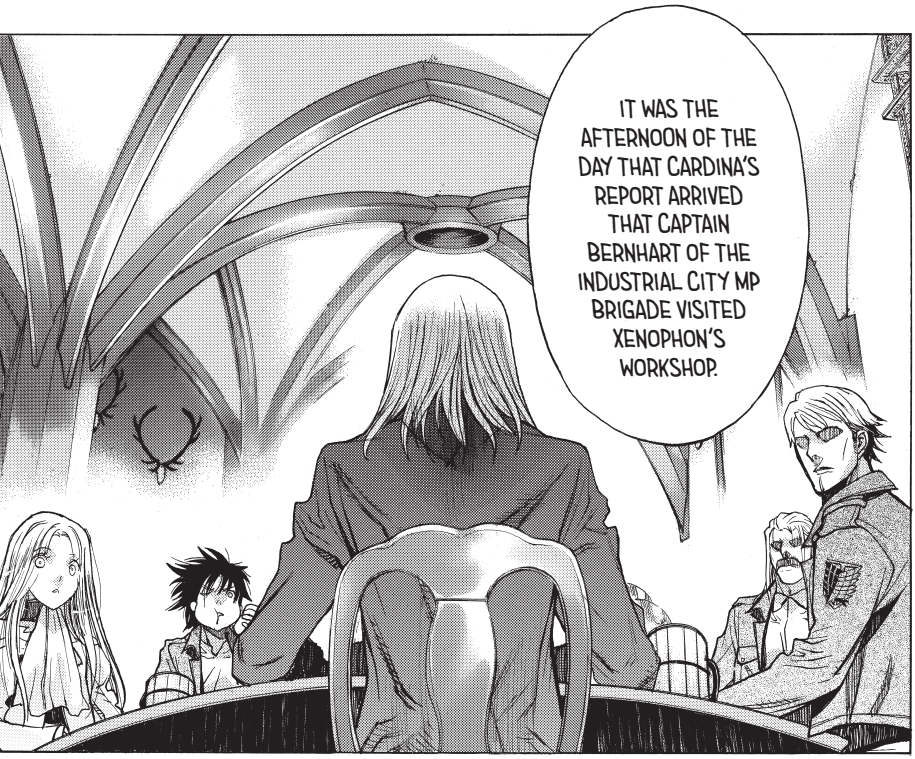
IF IT'S NOT JUST DUMB LUCK...
THAT'S THE POINT AT WHICH THE SPECIAL TRAINING CURRICULUM ENDS... IS THAT A SIMPLE COINCIDENCE?
TWO MONTHS.
I DON'T BLAME INSTRUCTOR JORGE FOR BEING LIVID...
...THEN THAT CHALLENGE IS ESSENTIALLY DEMANDING THAT FRESH-FACED RECRUITS BE THROWN TO THE TITANS.

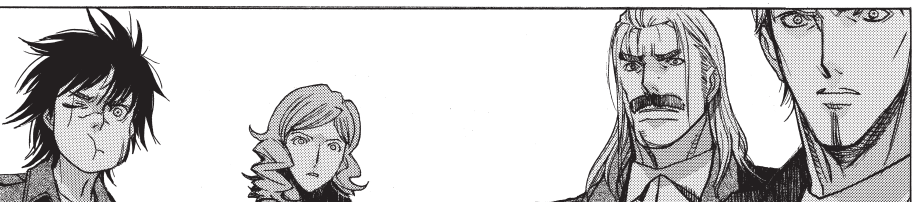


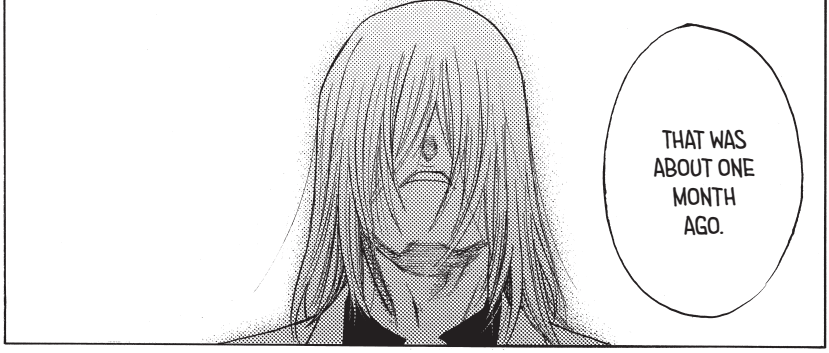


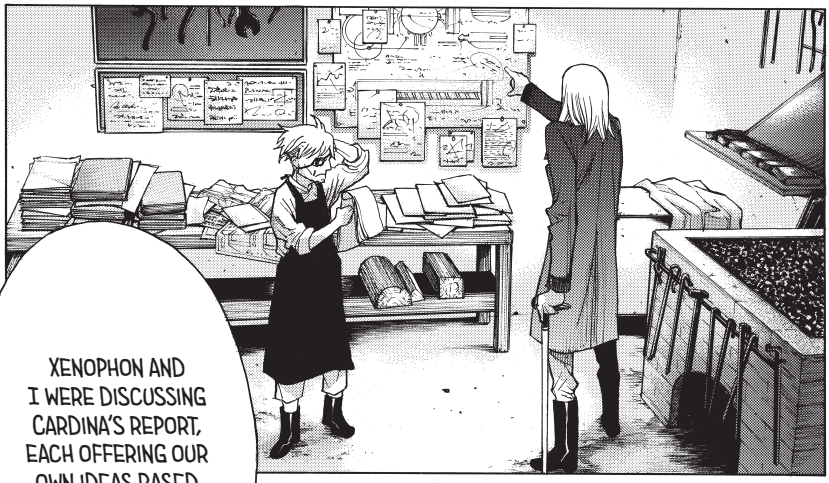


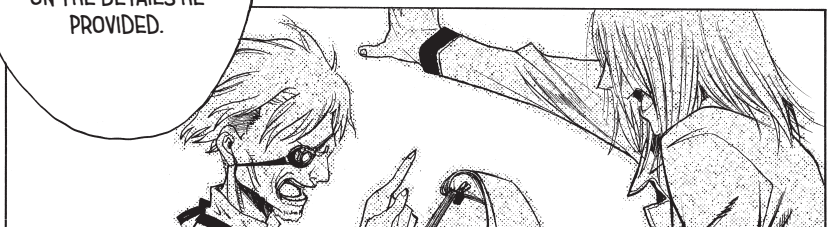

THUNK
カタ!

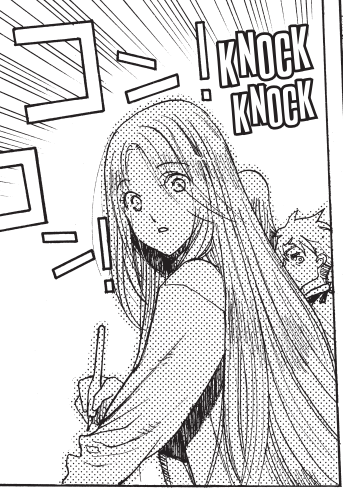

IT WAS THE AFTERNOON OF THE DAY THAT CARDINA'S REPORT ARRIVED THAT CAPTAIN BERNHART OF THE INDUSTRIAL CITY MP BRIGADE VISITED XENOPHON'S WORKSHOP.

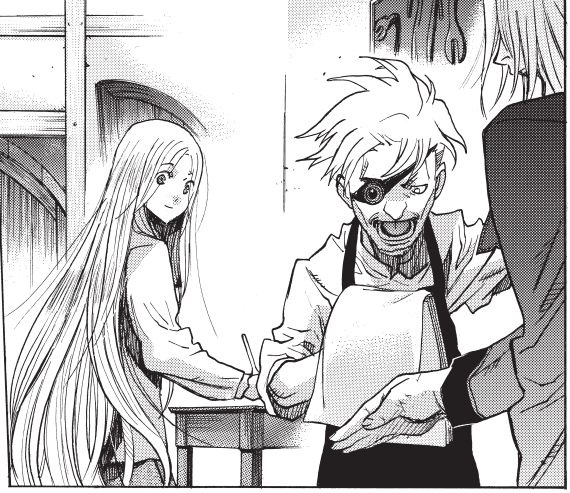



THAT WAS ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO.




XENOPHON AND I WERE DISCUSSING CARDINA'S REPORT, EACH OFFERING OUR OWN IDEAS BASED ON THE DETAILS HE PROVIDED.

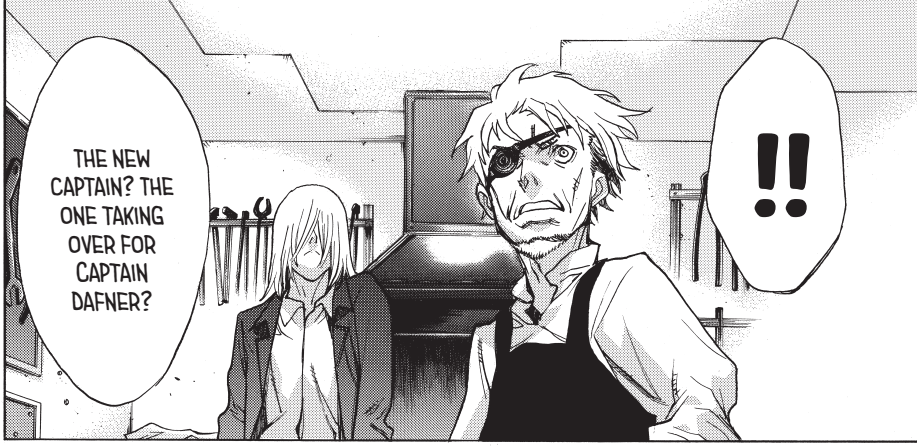

KNOCK KNOCK

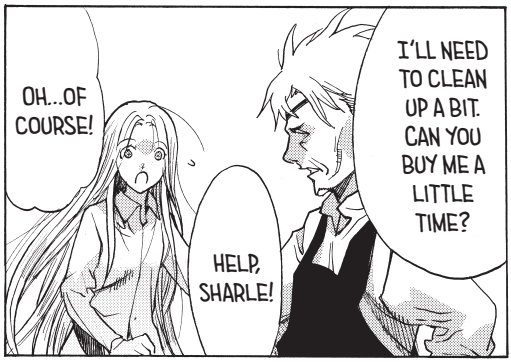


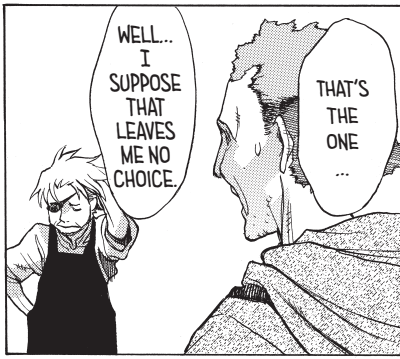
F-FOREMAN!
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE !!

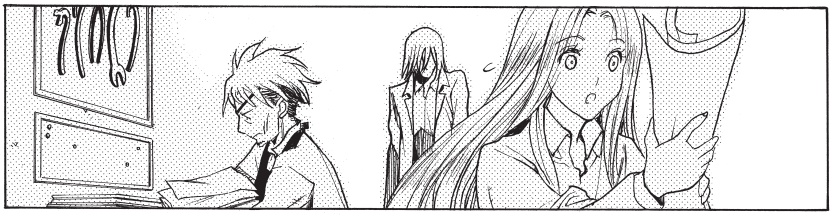
BUT... THE CAPTAIN OF THE MILITARY POLICE JUST SHOWED UP OUT OF NO-WHERE...
...AND IS DEMAND-ING A MEETING WITH YOU...

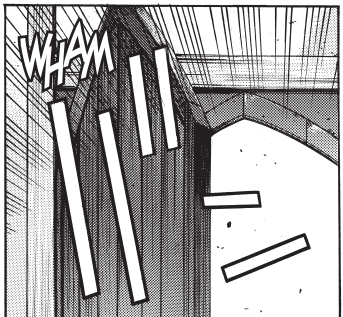
WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET ABOUT ?!
I MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE'RE NOT TO BE DISTURBED TODAY!
I-I'M SORRY, FORE-MAN!

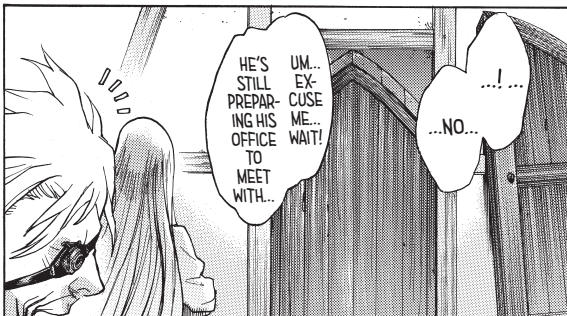

THE NEW CAPTAIN? THE ONE TAKING OVER FOR CAPTAIN DAFNER?
!!

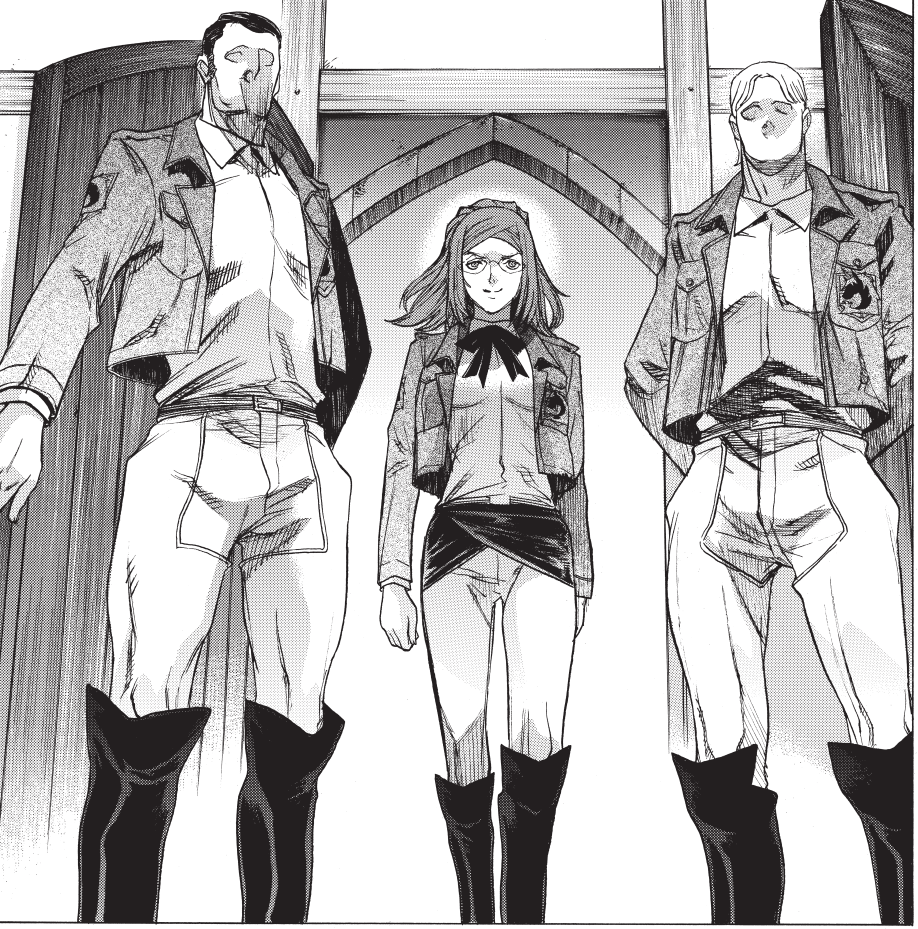

OH...OF COURSE!
HELP, SHARLE!
I'LL NEED TO CLEAN UP A BIT. CAN YOU BUY ME A LITTLE TIME?

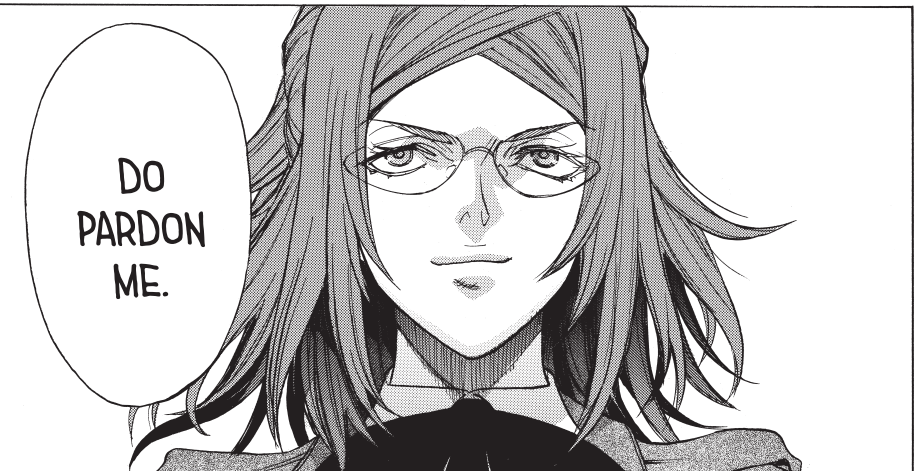

WELL... I SUPPOSE THAT LEAVES ME NO CHOICE.
THAT'S THE ONE ...

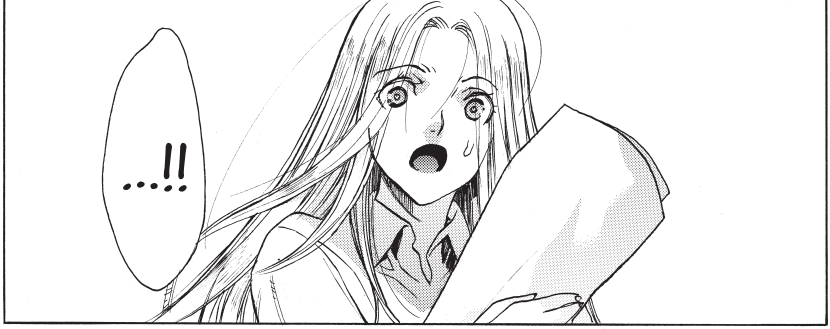


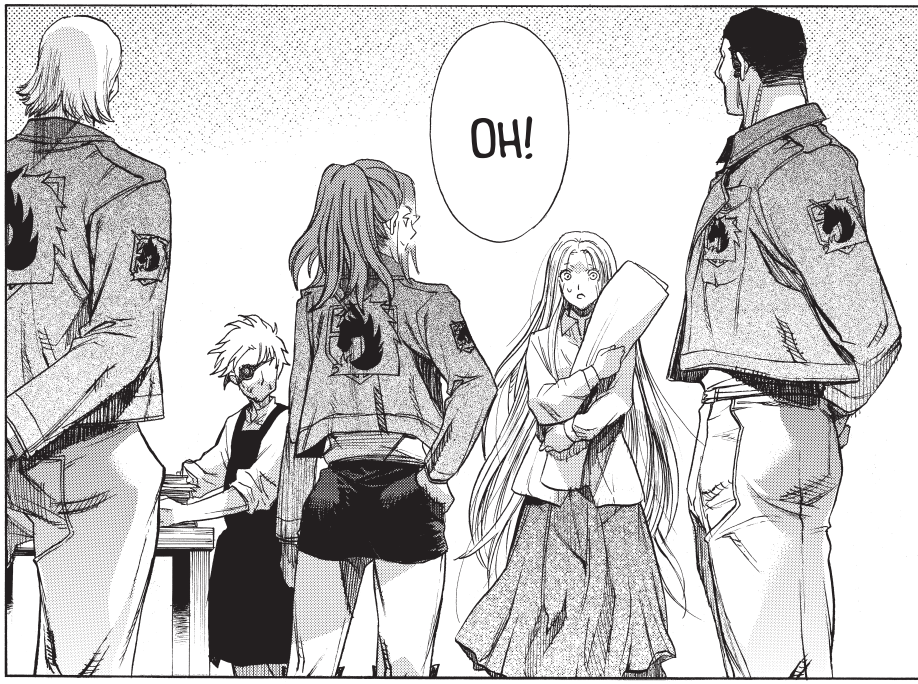

WHAM

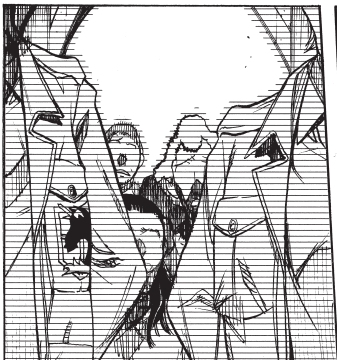

HE'S STILL PREPARING HIS OFFICE TO MEET WITH...
UM... EXCUSE ME... WAIT!
...! ...
...NO...

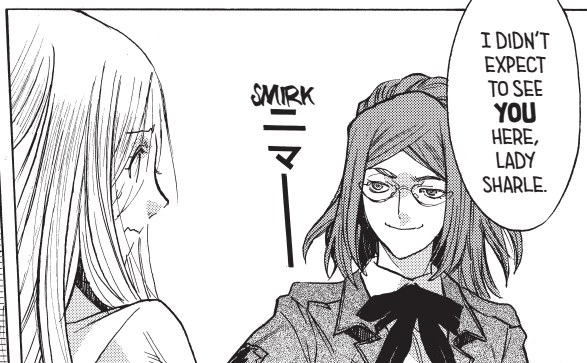



DO PARDON ME.

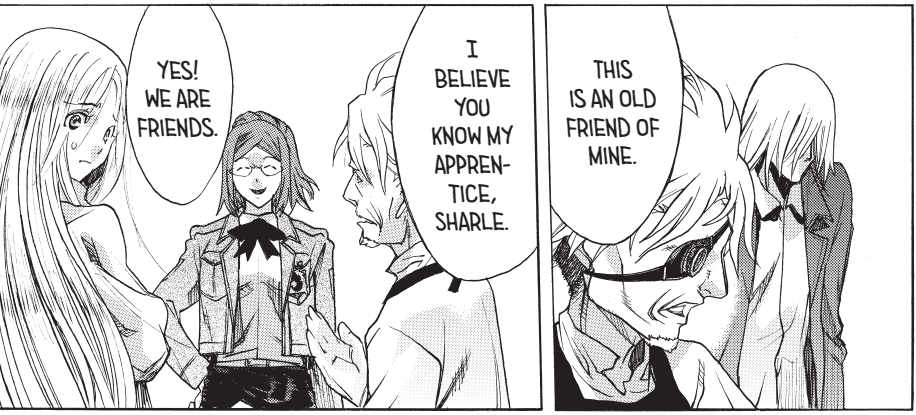

...!!

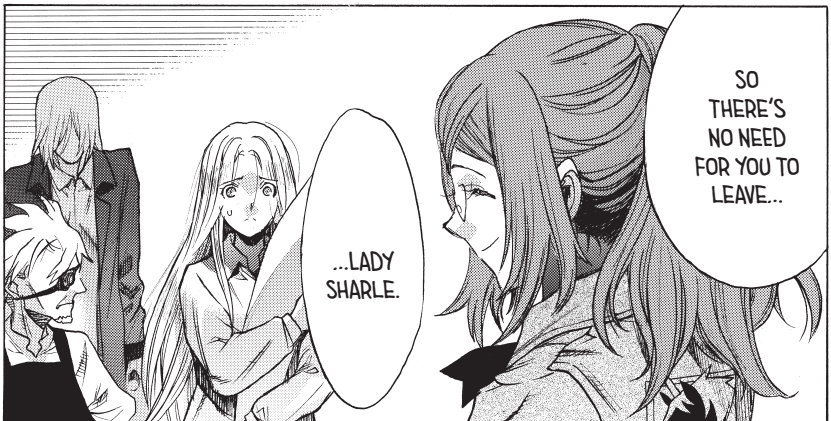

OH!

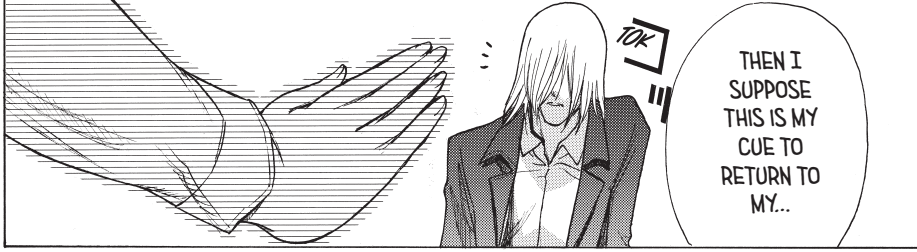



SMIRK
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE **YOU** HERE, LADY SHARLE.

YOU MUST BE THE NEW CAPTAIN OF THE MILITARY POLICE.
I AM XENOPHON HARKIMO, FOREMAN OF THIS WORKSHOP.


THIS IS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE.
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW MY APPRENTICE, SHARLE.
YES! WE ARE FRIENDS.

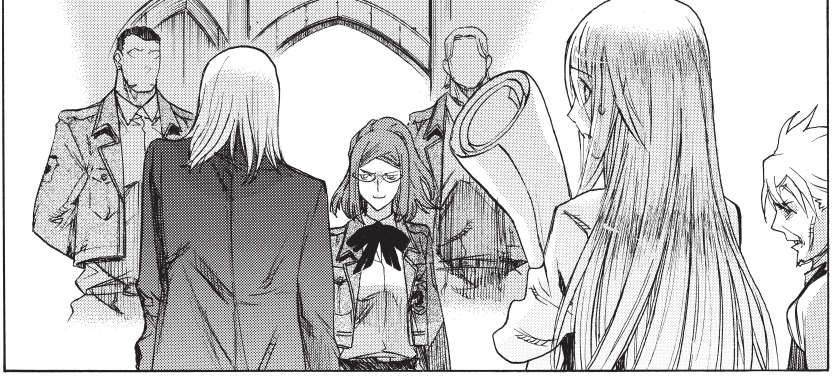

SO THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO LEAVE...
...LADY SHARLE.

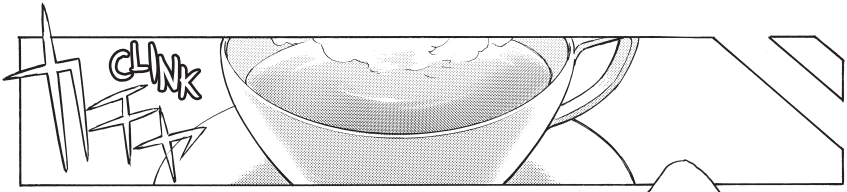

TOK
THEN I SUPPOSE THIS IS MY CUE TO RETURN TO MY...

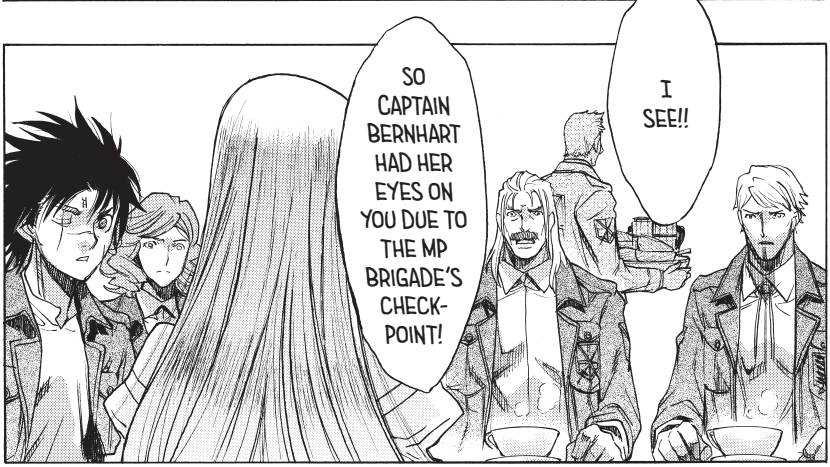
I'M AFRAID I MUST ASK YOU TO STAY HERE...
...ANGEL AALTONEN, FORMER "KING OF INVENT-IONS."

DID THE LETTER YOU RECEIVED TODAY COME IN HANDY?

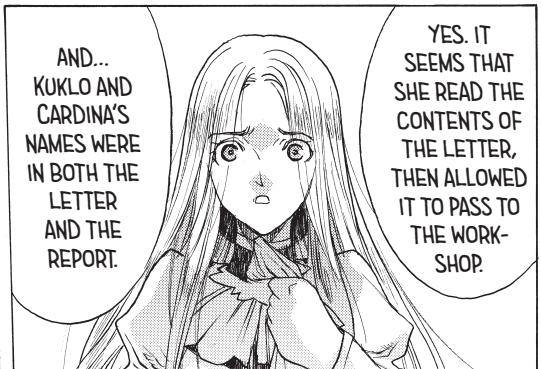
!




カチャ
CLINK


SO CAPTAIN BERNHART HAD HER EYES ON YOU DUE TO THE MP BRIGADE'S CHECK-POINT!
I SEE!!

!!


AND... KUKLO AND CARDINA'S NAMES WERE IN BOTH THE LETTER AND THE REPORT.
YES. IT SEEMS THAT SHE READ THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER, THEN ALLOWED IT TO PASS TO THE WORK-SHOP.

AND UNDER CAPTAIN DAFNER'S COMMAND, MY LETTERS WERE NEVER SUBJECTED TO THE CENSORS.

THE LETTER WAS SENT BEFORE THE UPRISING...

YES... OF COURSE!

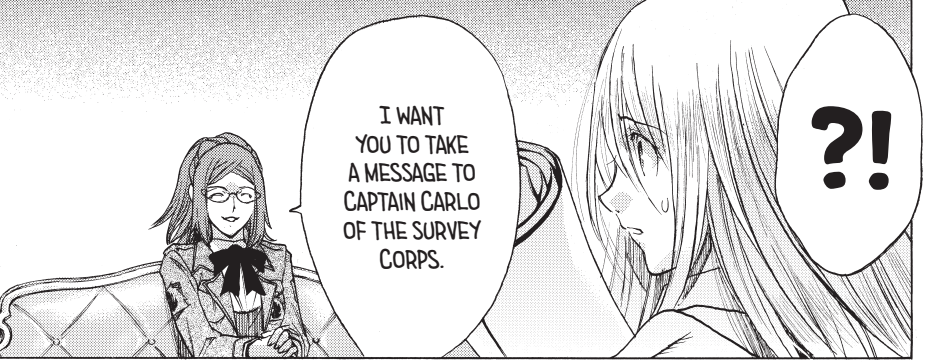
IT'S ALL RATHER FASCINATING, ISN'T IT?

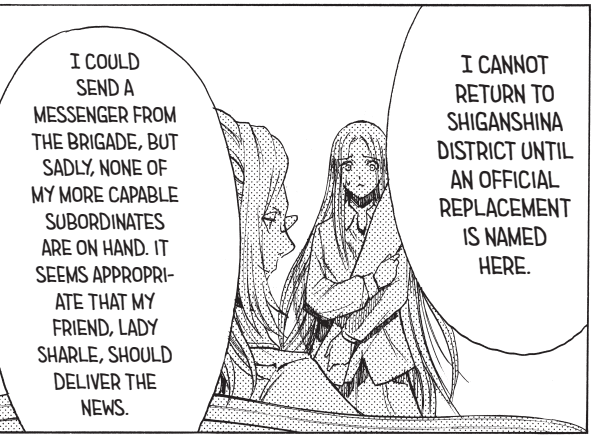
THE "DECEASED" MAN YOU KNEW IS SUGGESTED TO BE ALIVE AS OF VERY RECENTLY, LADY SHARLE.

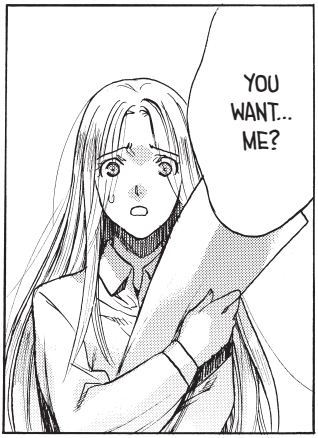
...

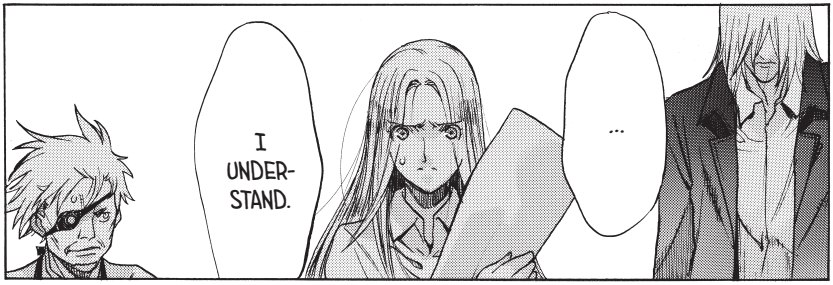
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS HEAR OUT MY REQUEST, AND I WILL PRETEND THAT I NEVER SAW THE LETTER.

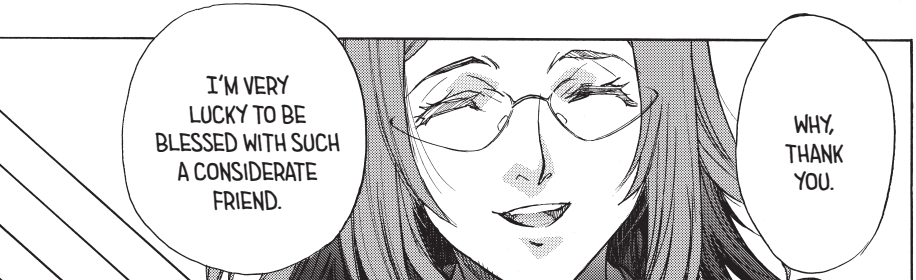
DON'T GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT, MY LADY.

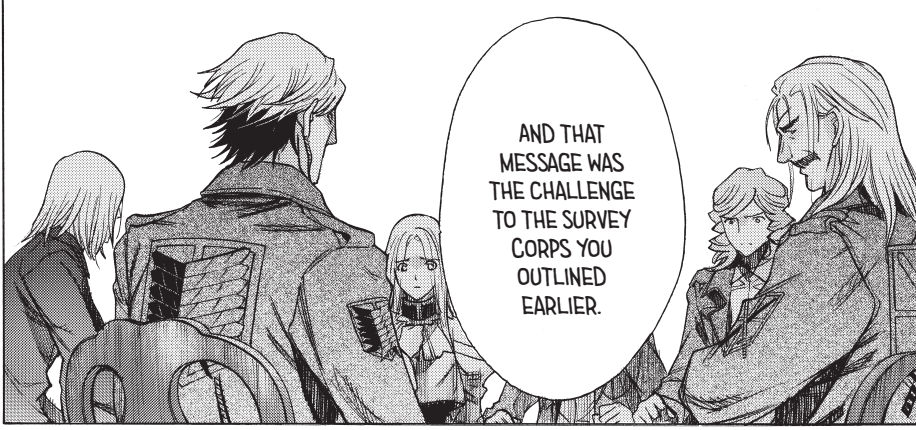

I WANT YOU TO TAKE A MESSAGE TO CAPTAIN CARLO OF THE SURVEY CORPS.
?!

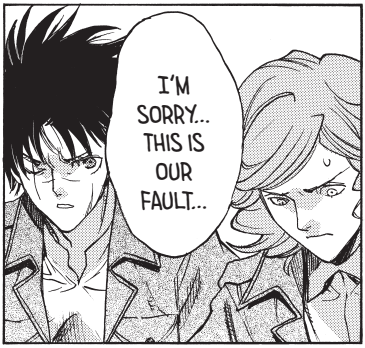

I COULD SEND A MESSENGER FROM THE BRIGADE, BUT SADLY, NONE OF MY MORE CAPABLE SUBORDINATES ARE ON HAND. IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE THAT MY FRIEND, LADY SHARLE, SHOULD DELIVER THE NEWS.
I CANNOT RETURN TO SHIGANSHINA DISTRICT UNTIL AN OFFICIAL REPLACEMENT IS NAMED HERE.

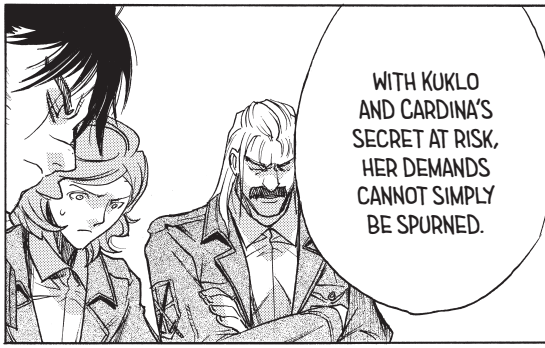

YOU WANT... ME?

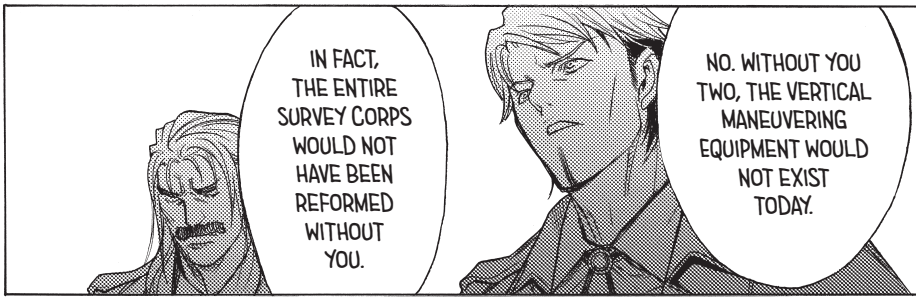

I UNDER-STAND.
...

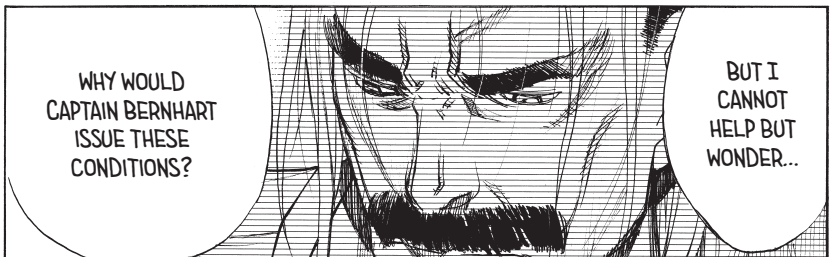

I'M VERY LUCKY TO BE BLESSED WITH SUCH A CONSIDERATE FRIEND.
WHY, THANK YOU.

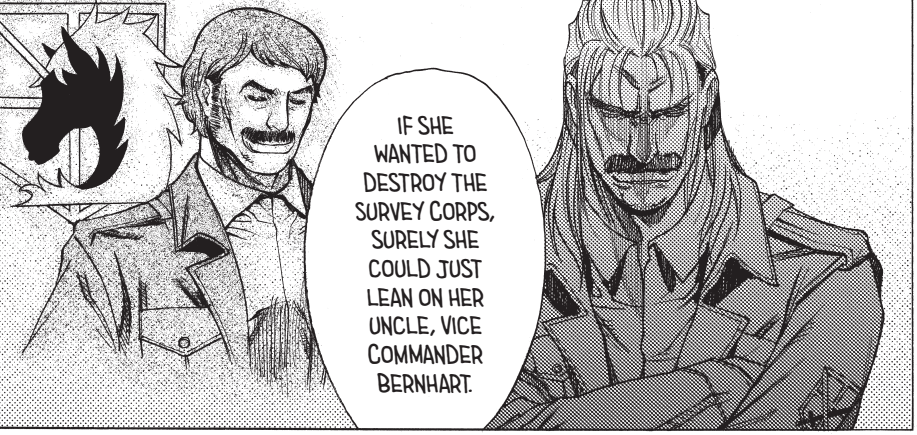

AND THAT MESSAGE WAS THE CHALLENGE TO THE SURVEY CORPS YOU OUTLINED EARLIER.

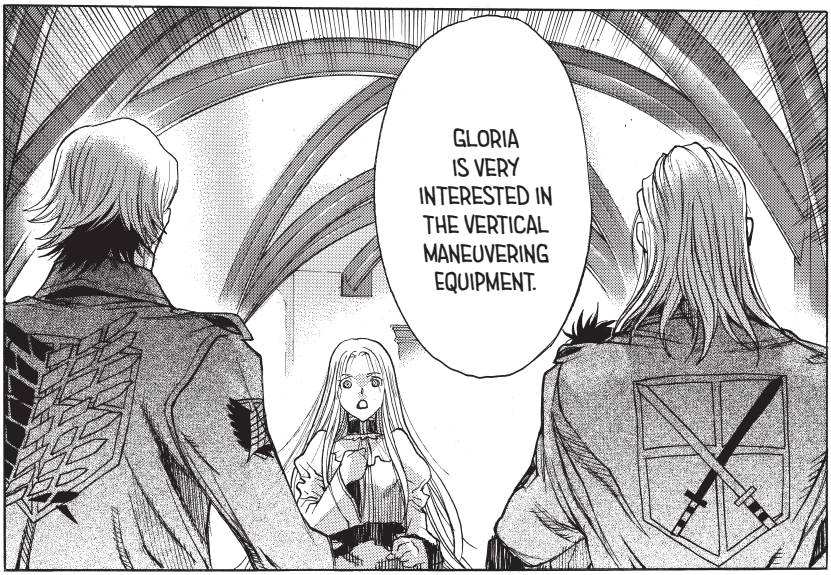

I'M SORRY... THIS IS OUR FAULT...


WITH KUKLO AND CARDINA'S SECRET AT RISK, HER DEMANDS CANNOT SIMPLY BE SPURNED.


IN FACT, THE ENTIRE SURVEY CORPS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN REFORMED WITHOUT YOU.
NO. WITHOUT YOU TWO, THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT EXIST TODAY.


WHY WOULD CAPTAIN BERNHART ISSUE THESE CONDITIONS?
BUT I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER...


IF SHE WANTED TO DESTROY THE SURVEY CORPS, SURELY SHE COULD JUST LEAN ON HER UNCLE, VICE COMMANDER BERNHART.


GLORIA IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.

BACK DURING THE UPRISING AT THE INDUSTRIAL CITY...
?!

...I FELL OFF THE SMOKESTACK PLATFORM DURING THE STRUGGLE WITH ONE OF THE DISSIDENTS...

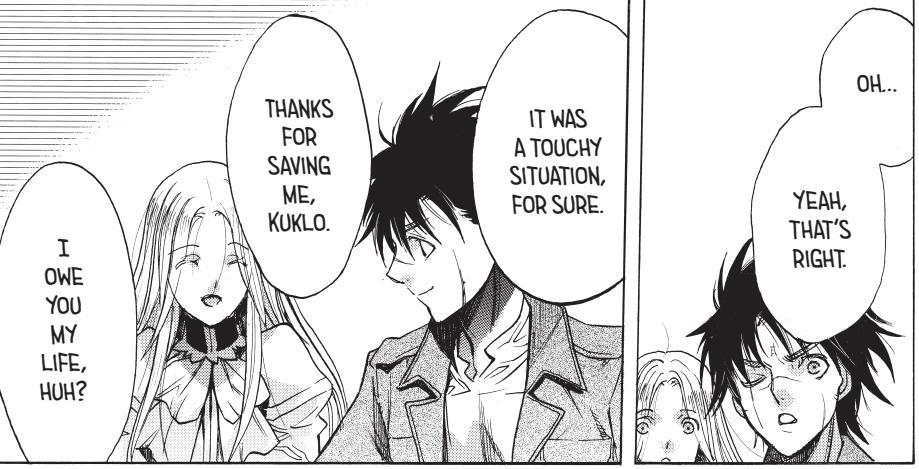
...AND WHEN KUKLO USED THE DEVICE TO FLY THROUGH THE AIR AND RESCUE ME, SHE HAPPENED TO WITNESS IT IN PERSON.

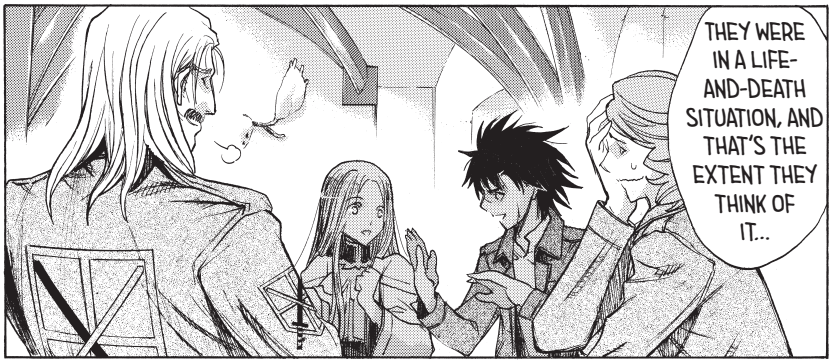
I'D HEARD THAT HE SAVED YOU, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW SUCH DRAMATICS WERE INVOLVED!

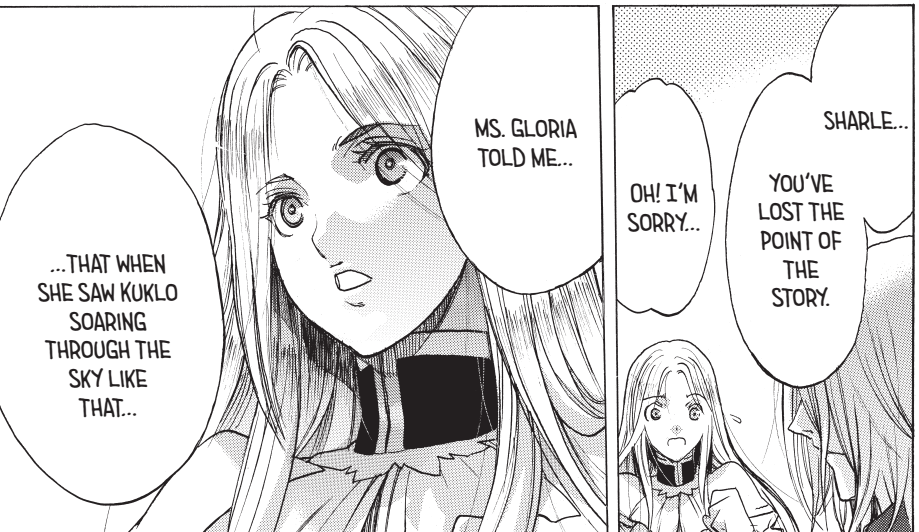
NOW JUST A MOMENT.

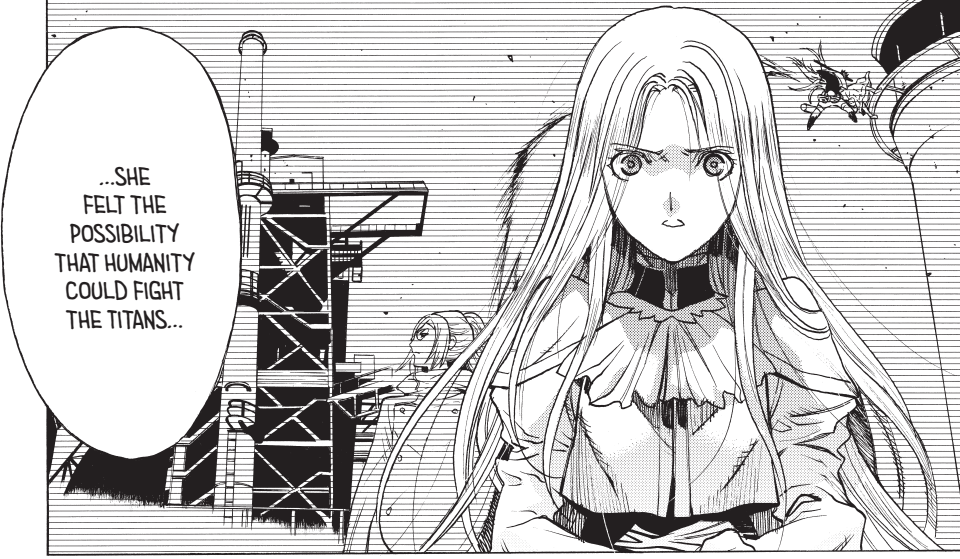
WAIT, **WHAT** HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO?!

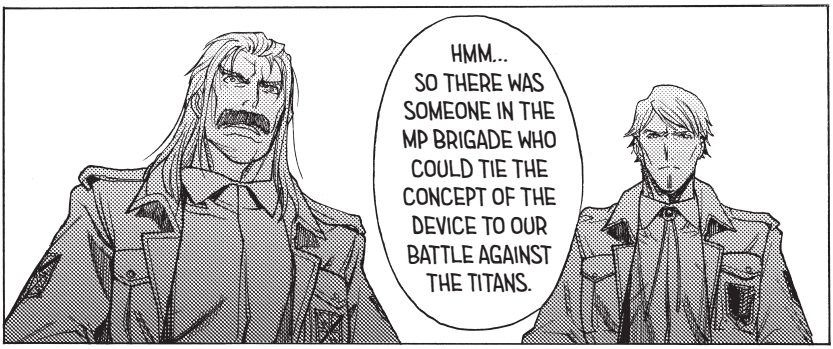
OH... SHE SAW **THAT**?


I OWE YOU MY LIFE, HUH?
THANKS FOR SAVING ME, KUKLO.
IT WAS A TOUCHY SITUATION, FOR SURE.
OH...
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.


THEY WERE IN A LIFE-AND-DEATH SITUATION, AND THAT'S THE EXTENT THEY THINK OF IT...

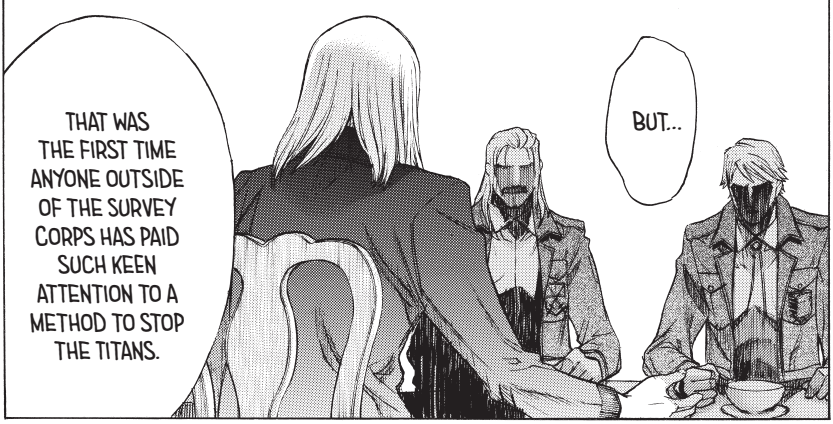

...THAT WHEN SHE SAW KUKLO SOARING THROUGH THE SKY LIKE THAT...
MS. GLORIA TOLD ME...
OH! I'M SORRY...
SHARLE...
YOU'VE LOST THE POINT OF THE STORY.

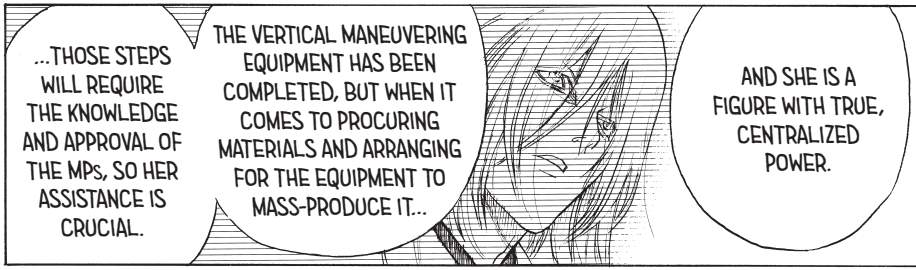

...SHE FELT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HUMANITY COULD FIGHT THE TITANS...

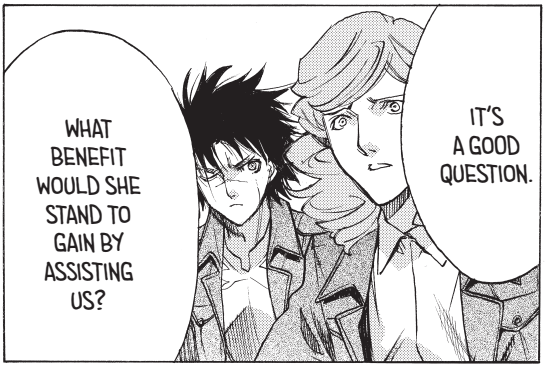

HMM... SO THERE WAS SOMEONE IN THE MP BRIGADE WHO COULD TIE THE CONCEPT OF THE DEVICE TO OUR BATTLE AGAINST THE TITANS.

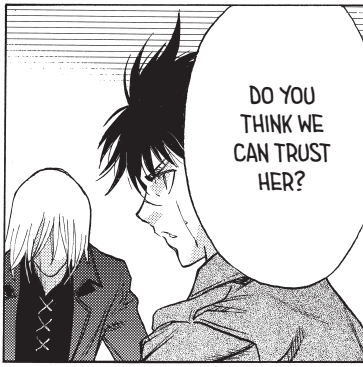
IT WAS ONLY WHEN SHE WAS INSPECTING THE MAIL AND JUST HAPPENED TO READ CARDINA'S REPORT THAT IT ALL CLICKED TOGETHER IN HER HEAD.
IN THE MOMENT, SHE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THAT IT WAS KUKLO, AND SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE MECHANISM THAT ALLOWED HIM TO FLY LIKE THAT.

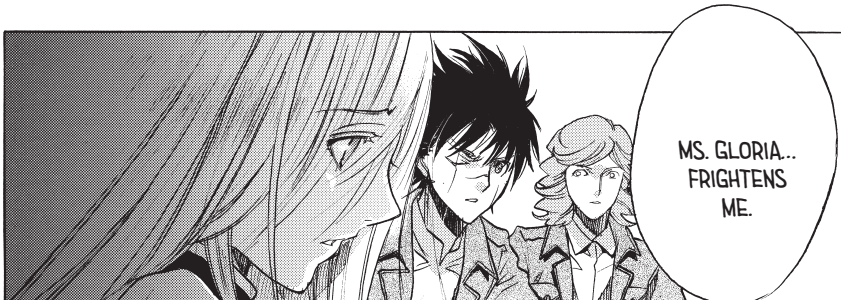
!
AFTER THAT, SHE ASKED XENOPHON AND I EVERY POSSIBLE QUESTION ABOUT THE DEVICE.
WE STARTED WITH THE TITAN-CAPTURING PROJECT OF 15 YEARS AGO...
...THE FAILURE OF THE DEVICE PROTOTYPE DURING THE BREACH INTO SHIGANSHINA, THEN THE DEFEAT OF THE TITAN...
...THEN THROUGH THE UNCONFIRMED DEFEAT OF THE TITAN THROUGH SORUM'S SELF-DESTRUC-TION...
...AND FINALLY TO THE CURRENT PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE DEVICE. EVERY LAST DETAIL.
AND...?
WELL...
CAPTAIN BERNHART SUPPRESSED THE REBELLION AND HOLDS ABSOLUTE POWER IN THE INDUSTRIAL CITY, SO I COULD NOT REFUSE HER DEMANDS.
BUT EVEN THEN, I THINK IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE TOLD HER.

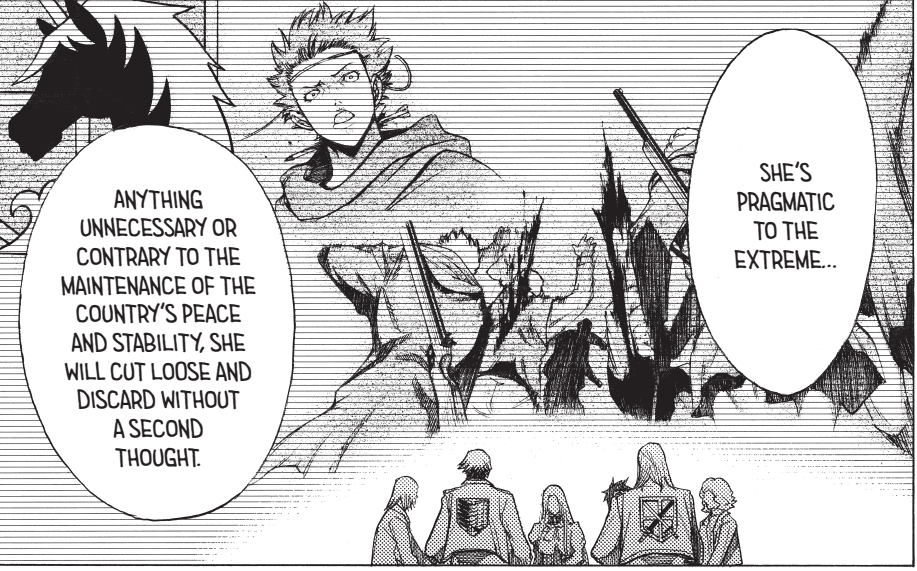

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE OUTSIDE OF THE SURVEY CORPS HAS PAID SUCH KEEN ATTENTION TO A METHOD TO STOP THE TITANS.
BUT...

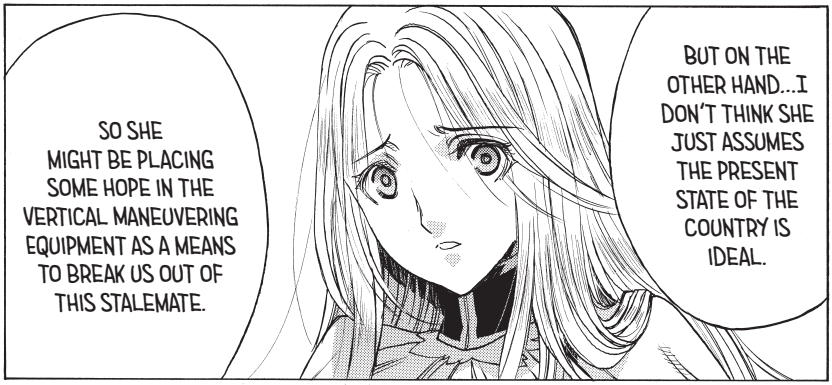

...THOSE STEPS WILL REQUIRE THE KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF THE MPs, SO HER ASSISTANCE IS CRUCIAL.
THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO PROCURING MATERIALS AND ARRANGING FOR THE EQUIPMENT TO MASS-PRODUCE IT...
AND SHE IS A FIGURE WITH TRUE, CENTRALIZED POWER.


WHAT BENEFIT WOULD SHE STAND TO GAIN BY ASSISTING US?
IT'S A GOOD QUESTION.


DO YOU THINK WE CAN TRUST HER?


MS. GLORIA... FRIGHTENS ME.

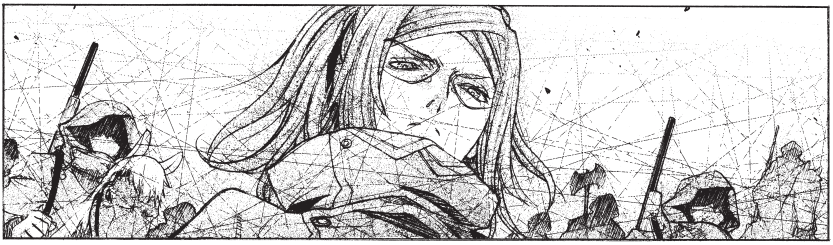

ANYTHING UNNECESSARY OR CONTRARY TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE COUNTRY'S PEACE AND STABILITY, SHE WILL CUT LOOSE AND DISCARD WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
SHE'S PRAGMATIC TO THE EXTREME...


SO SHE MIGHT BE PLACING SOME HOPE IN THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT AS A MEANS TO BREAK US OUT OF THIS STALEMATE.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...I DON'T THINK SHE JUST ASSUMES THE PRESENT STATE OF THE COUNTRY IS IDEAL.

HOWEVER...

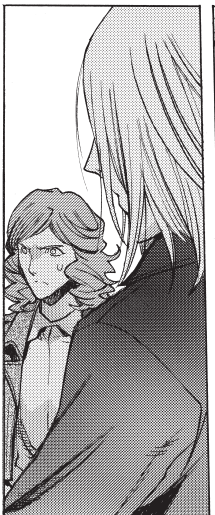
...AND WANTS TO INVEST IN THAT HOPE...
SHE SEES THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WILL VANQUISH THE TITANS AND GIVE US A FUTURE BEYOND THE WALLS...

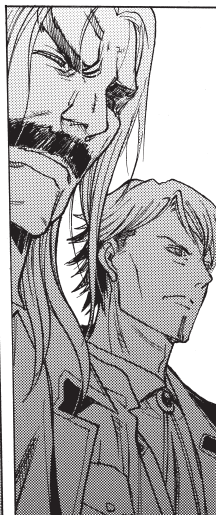
IF SHE DETERMINES THAT THIS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE HAS NO PRACTICAL CHANCE OF SUCCESS, SHE WILL DISCARD US AND NEVER LOOK BACK.

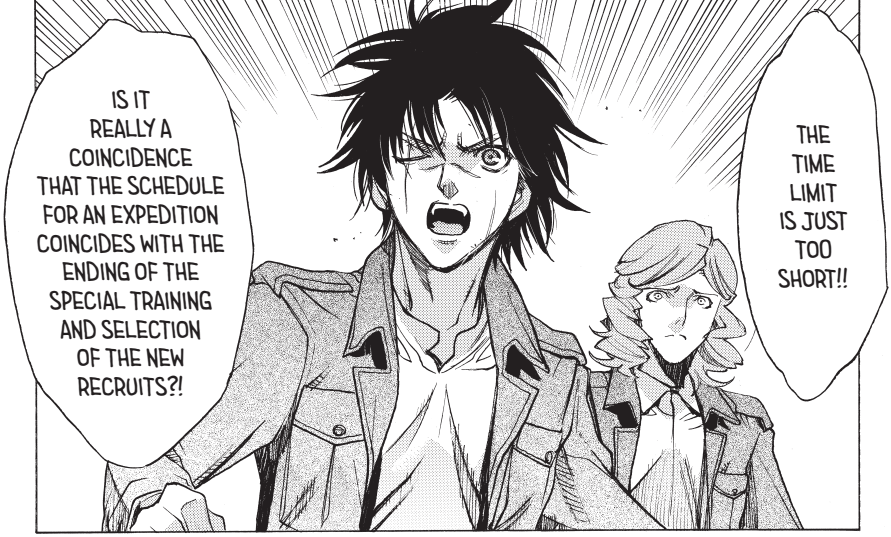


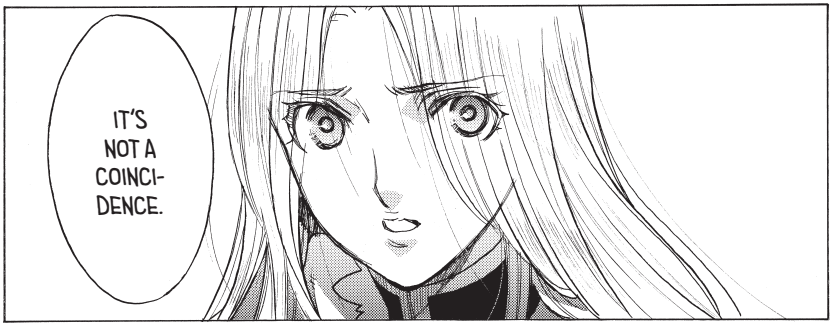
NOW I UNDER-STAND...THE REASON THAT SHE IS ASSISTING US.

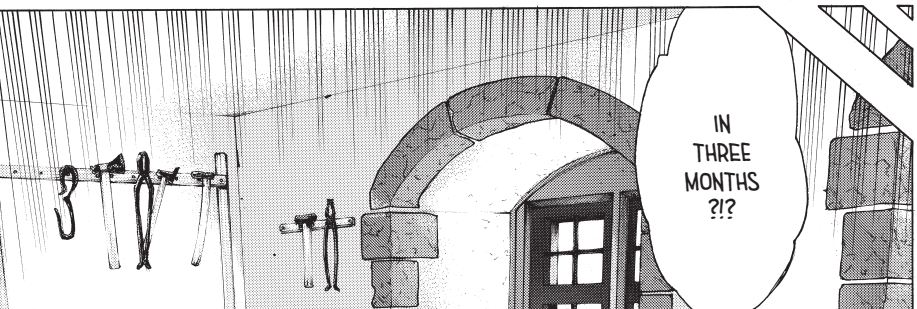
BUT...

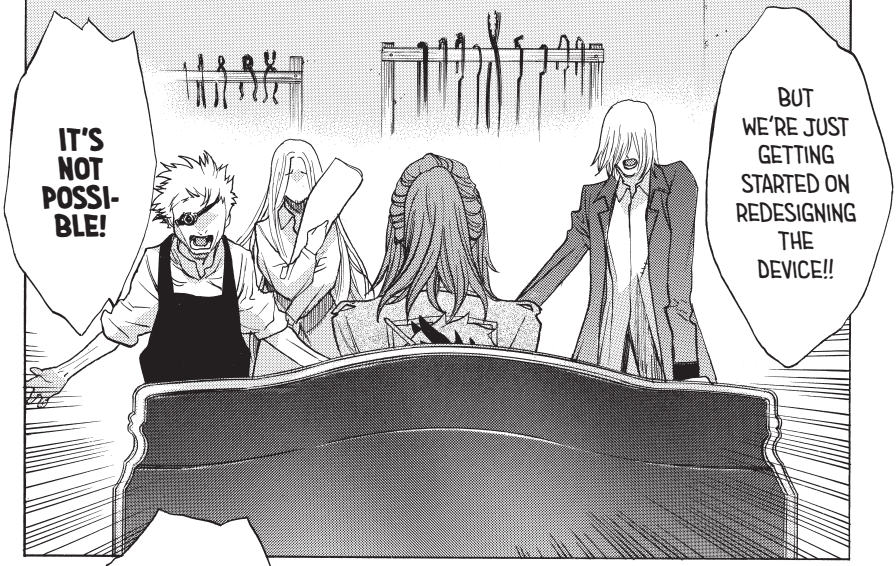


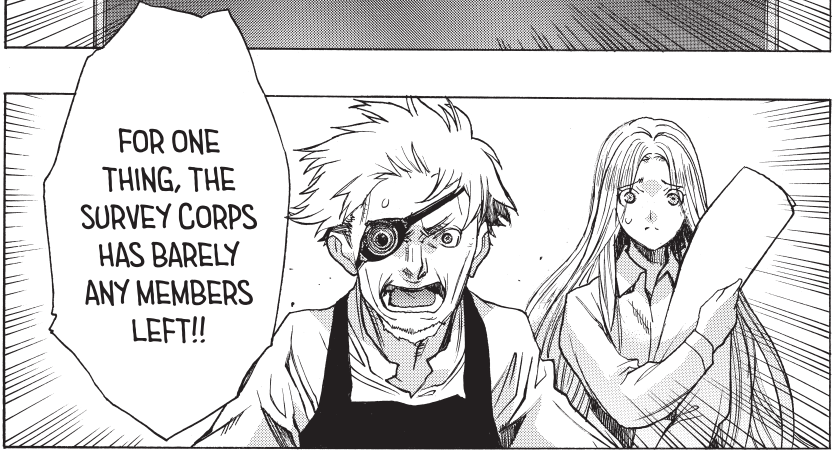



IS IT REALLY A COINCIDENCE THAT THE SCHEDULE FOR AN EXPEDITION COINCIDES WITH THE ENDING OF THE SPECIAL TRAINING AND SELECTION OF THE NEW RECRUITS?!
THE TIME LIMIT IS JUST TOO SHORT!!

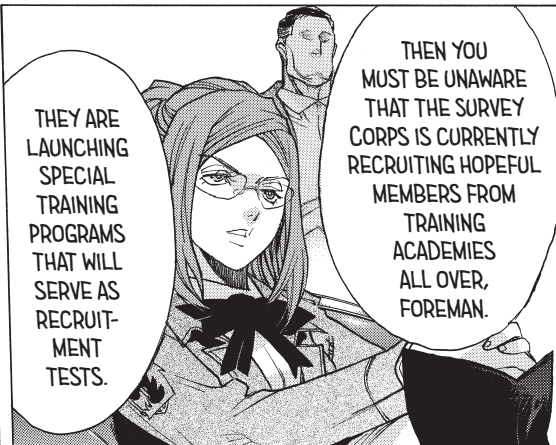

IT'S NOT A COINCI-DENCE.

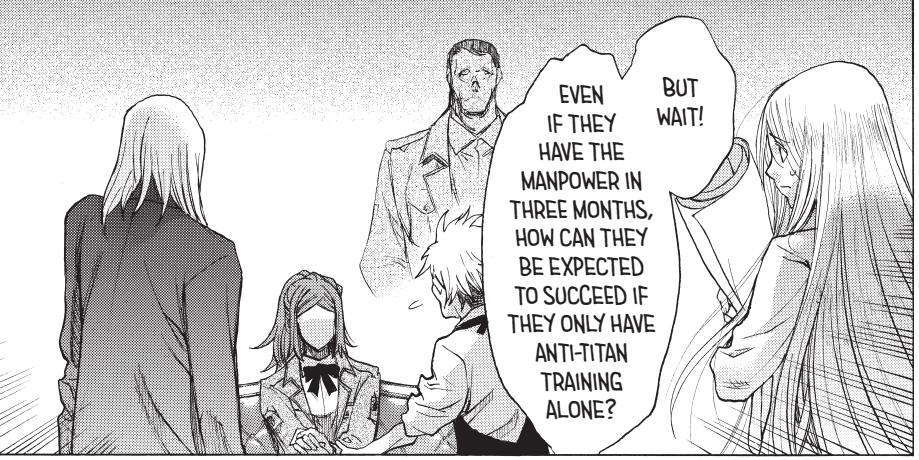

IN THREE MONTHS ?!?


IT'S NOT POSSI-BLE!
BUT WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED ON REDESIGNING THE DEVICE!!

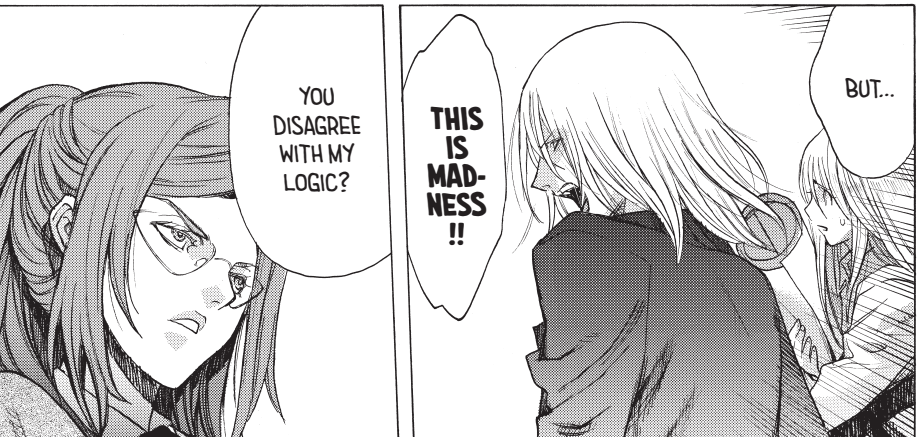

FOR ONE THING, THE SURVEY CORPS HAS BARELY ANY MEMBERS LEFT!!

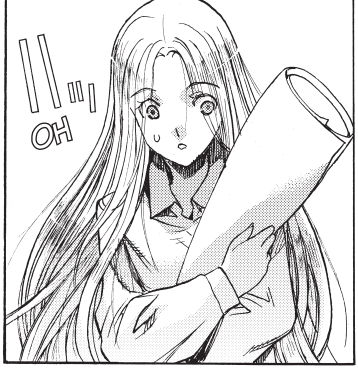
MY WORD ...!

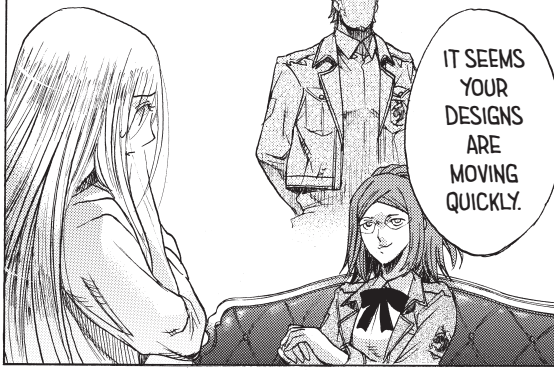

THEY ARE LAUNCHING SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT WILL SERVE AS RECRUIT-MENT TESTS.
THEN YOU MUST BE UNAWARE THAT THE SURVEY CORPS IS CURRENTLY RECRUITING HOPEFUL MEMBERS FROM TRAINING ACADEMIES ALL OVER, FOREMAN.

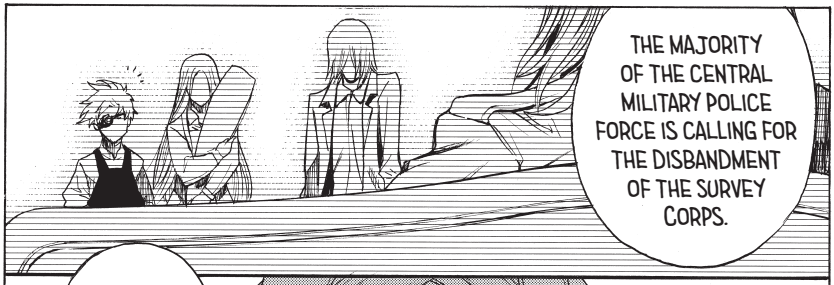

BUT WAIT!
EVEN IF THEY HAVE THE MANPOWER IN THREE MONTHS, HOW CAN THEY BE EXPECTED TO SUCCEED IF THEY ONLY HAVE ANTI-TITAN TRAINING ALONE?

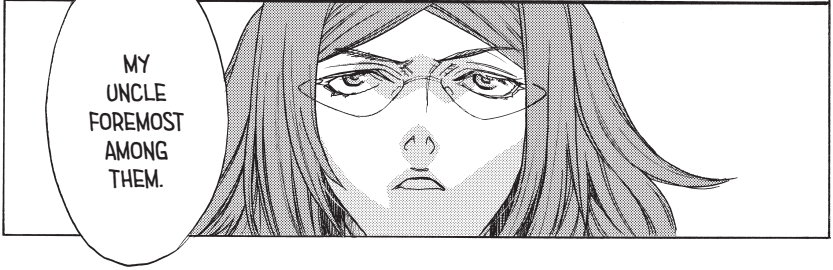
YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR THEIR SHORT-COMINGS WITH THE CAPABILITIES OF YOUR NEW DEVICE.
THE FASTER YOU DEVELOP IT, THE MORE TIME YOU WILL GIVE YOUR RECRUITS TO LEARN HOW TO USE IT.

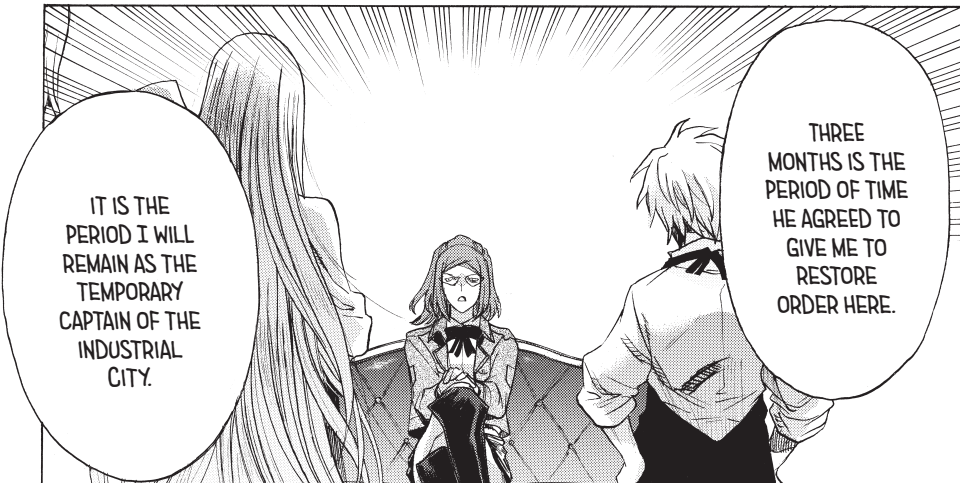

BUT...
THIS IS MAD-NESS !!
YOU DISAGREE WITH MY LOGIC?


OH

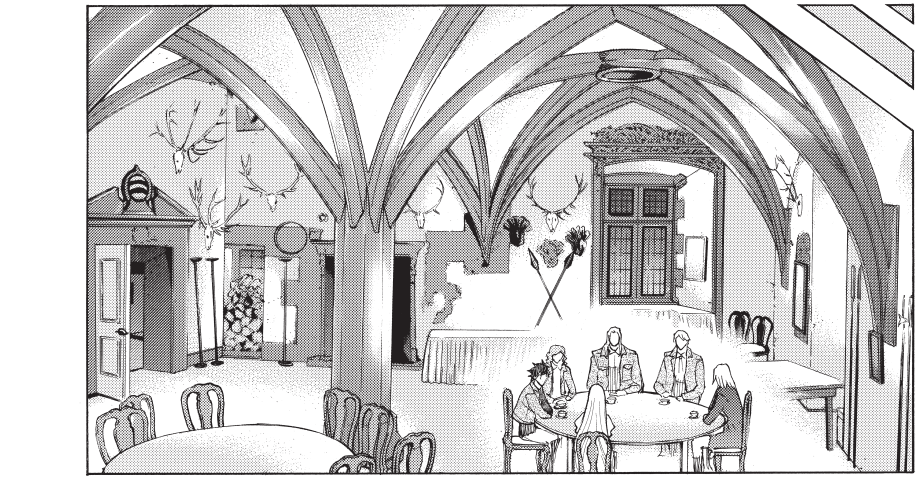

IT SEEMS YOUR DESIGNS ARE MOVING QUICKLY.


THE MAJORITY OF THE CENTRAL MILITARY POLICE FORCE IS CALLING FOR THE DISBANDMENT OF THE SURVEY CORPS.


MY UNCLE FOREMOST AMONG THEM.


IT IS THE PERIOD I WILL REMAIN AS THE TEMPORARY CAPTAIN OF THE INDUSTRIAL CITY.
THREE MONTHS IS THE PERIOD OF TIME HE AGREED TO GIVE ME TO RESTORE ORDER HERE.

YOU MUST PRODUCE RESULTS IN THAT TIME. THE SURVEY CORPS WOULD ALREADY BE GONE WITHOUT IT.



IT DOES NOT SEEM...

...AS THOUGH SHE IS BLUFFING...

I HAD THE SENSE THAT OUR TREATMENT FROM CENTRAL WAS GETTING COLDER LATELY.

B-BUT WAIT! YOU JUST SAID "THREE MONTHS," DIDN'T YOU?

BUT WASN'T THE SPAN THAT SHARLE ORIGINALLY DESCRIBED ONLY TWO?

SO WE NEVER HAD A BETTER CHOICE TO BEGIN WITH.

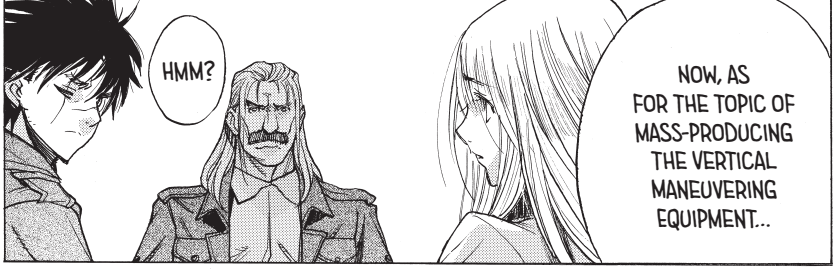
IT WAS ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO THAT CAPTAIN BERNHART VISITED THE WORKSHOP.

WE PUT OUR FULL EFFORT INTO DEVELOPING AND FINISHING THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT, AND CONFIRMED ITS PROPER APPLICATION JUST TWO DAYS AGO.

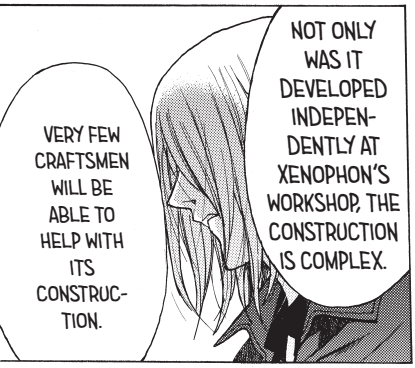
SHARLE'S MESSAGE WITH THE ULTIMATUM WAS ACCURATE TO THE ACTUAL DEADLINE.

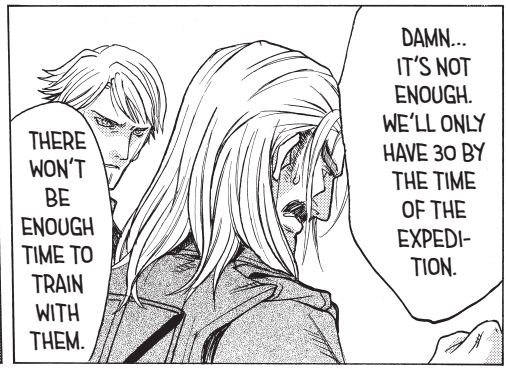
OH... I SEE...

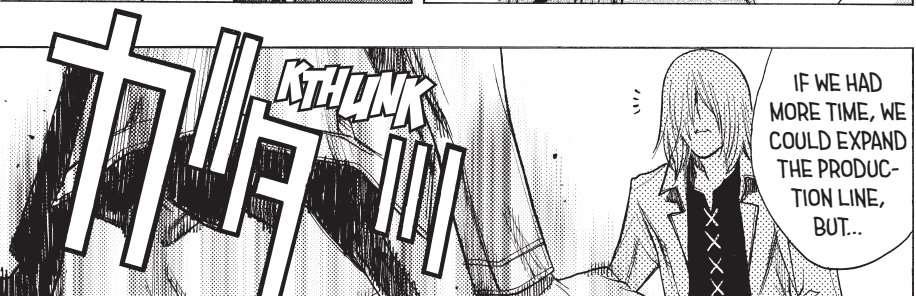
SO THERE'S NO GETTING AROUND THE FACT THAT THE EXPEDITION IS IN TWO MONTHS.


HMM?
NOW, AS FOR THE TOPIC OF MASS-PRODUCING THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT...

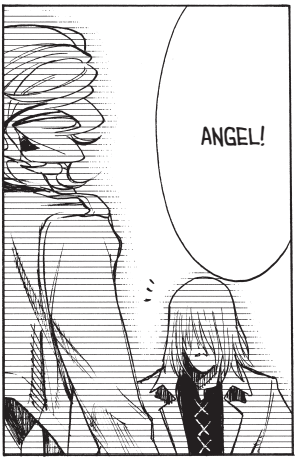
AT PRESENT, WE'RE AT A PACE OF FIVE UNITS EVERY TEN DAYS.

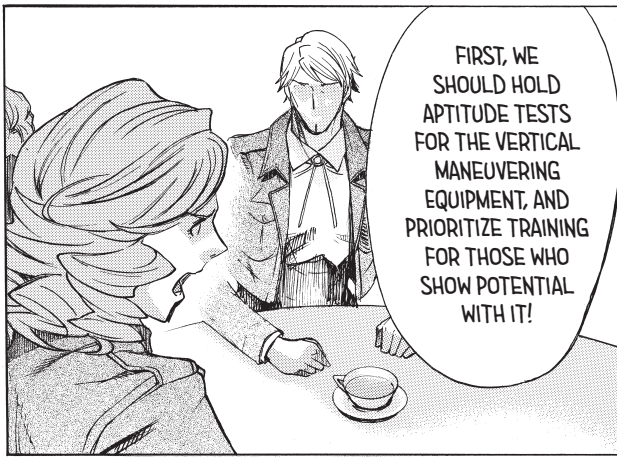

NOT ONLY WAS IT DEVELOPED INDEPEN-DENTLY AT XENOPHON'S WORKSHOP, THE CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLEX.
VERY FEW CRAFTSMEN WILL BE ABLE TO HELP WITH ITS CONSTRUC-TION.

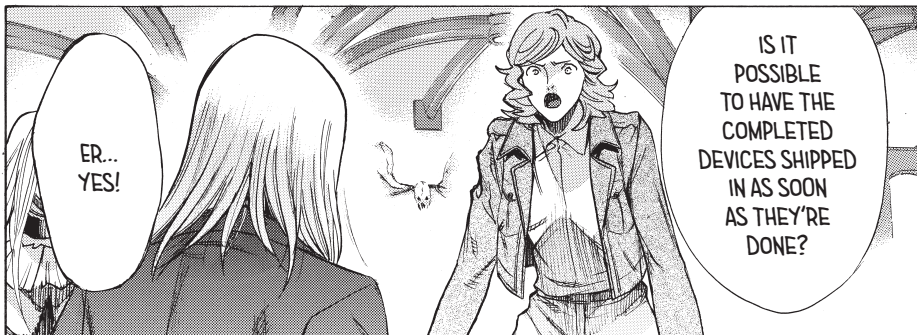

DAMN... IT'S NOT ENOUGH. WE'LL ONLY HAVE 30 BY THE TIME OF THE EXPEDI-TION.
THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH TIME TO TRAIN WITH THEM.

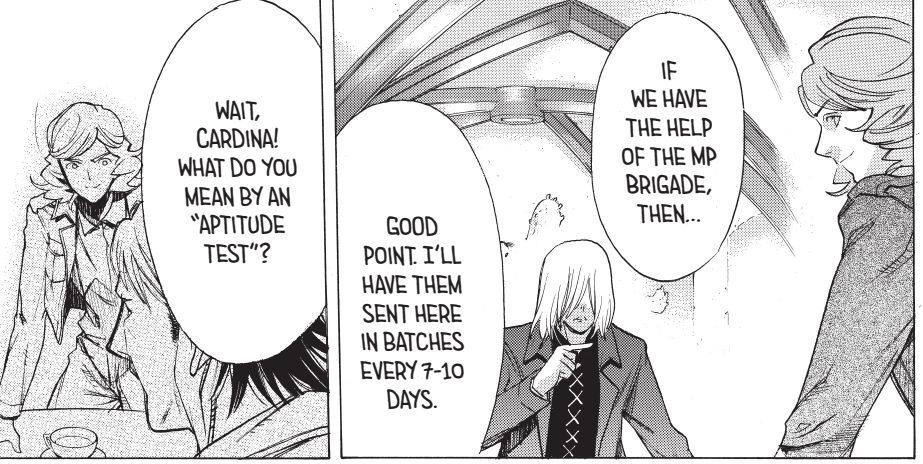

KTHUNK
IF WE HAD MORE TIME, WE COULD EXPAND THE PRODUC-TION LINE, BUT...

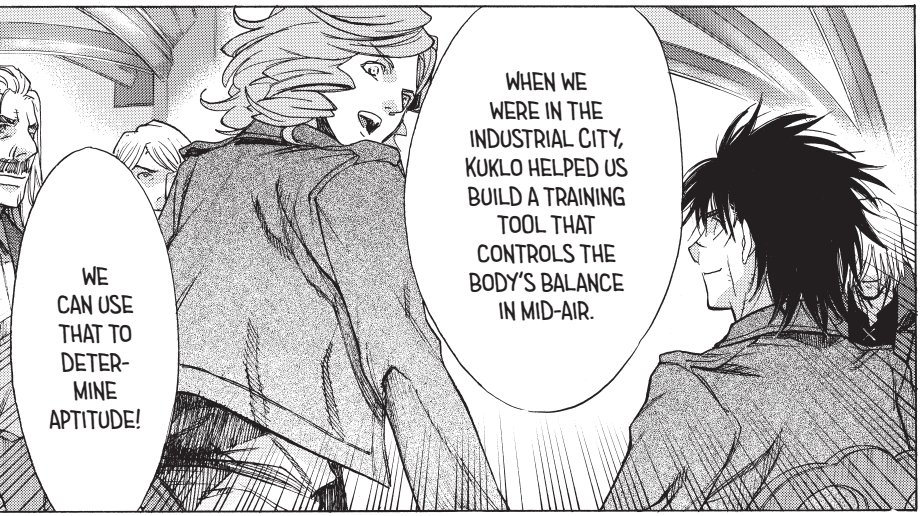
LET'S RETHINK OUR CURRENT TRAINING PLAN!!


ANGEL!


FIRST, WE SHOULD HOLD APTITUDE TESTS FOR THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT, AND PRIORITIZE TRAINING FOR THOSE WHO SHOW POTENTIAL WITH IT!


ER... YES!
IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE COMPLETED DEVICES SHIPPED IN AS SOON AS THEY'RE DONE?


WAIT, CARDINA! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY AN "APTITUDE TEST"?
GOOD POINT. I'LL HAVE THEM SENT HERE IN BATCHES EVERY 7-10 DAYS.
IF WE HAVE THE HELP OF THE MP BRIGADE, THEN...


WE CAN USE THAT TO DETER-MINE APTITUDE!
WHEN WE WERE IN THE INDUSTRIAL CITY, KUKLO HELPED US BUILD A TRAINING TOOL THAT CONTROLS THE BODY'S BALANCE IN MID-AIR.

YES, SIR!
WE'LL DO IT!

YOU TWO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THE SPECIAL TRAINING PLAN FOR THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.
I SEE... THEN I'LL LEAVE YOU AND KUKLO IN CHARGE OF THAT TEST.

CAN I ASK YOU TO HELP SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS, ANGEL? MISS SHARLE?

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO ME.

I SEE. SO WE'LL SPLIT UP INTO A VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT TEAM FOR DIRECT COMBAT WITH THE TITANS, AND A LOGISTICS AND SCOUTING TEAM.

30 TROOPS WON'T BE ENOUGH ON THAT EXPEDITION. WE'LL NEED A SUPPLY LINE AND SCOUTS, TOO.

THEN I WILL TAKE CHARGE OF THOSE WHO CANNOT MAKE USE OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.

YES. THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD.

I'VE HEARD THAT OTHER WORKSHOPS ARE TESTING FORGING THE SWORDS, AND I'LL STRESS THE IMPORTANCE TO XENOPHON IN A LETTER, TOO.

BUT AT A MINIMUM, I WANT THOSE SCOUTS AND SUPPLY LINERS TO BE OUTFITTED WITH IRON BAMBOO SWORDS.

CAN YOU HANDLE THAT FOR US, ANGEL?

WHEW...

SO WE'LL ALL FOCUS ON RECON-STRUCTING OUR TRAINING CURRICULUMS AT ONCE.

WE WILL DELIVER THE NEWS TO THE TRAINEES AT THE MORNING ROLL CALL!

SIR, YES, SIR !!

CARLO...

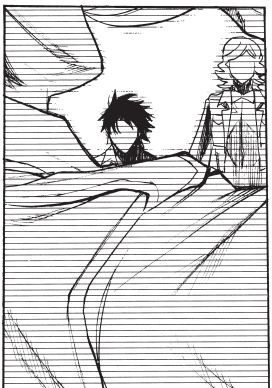
WHAT IS IT?

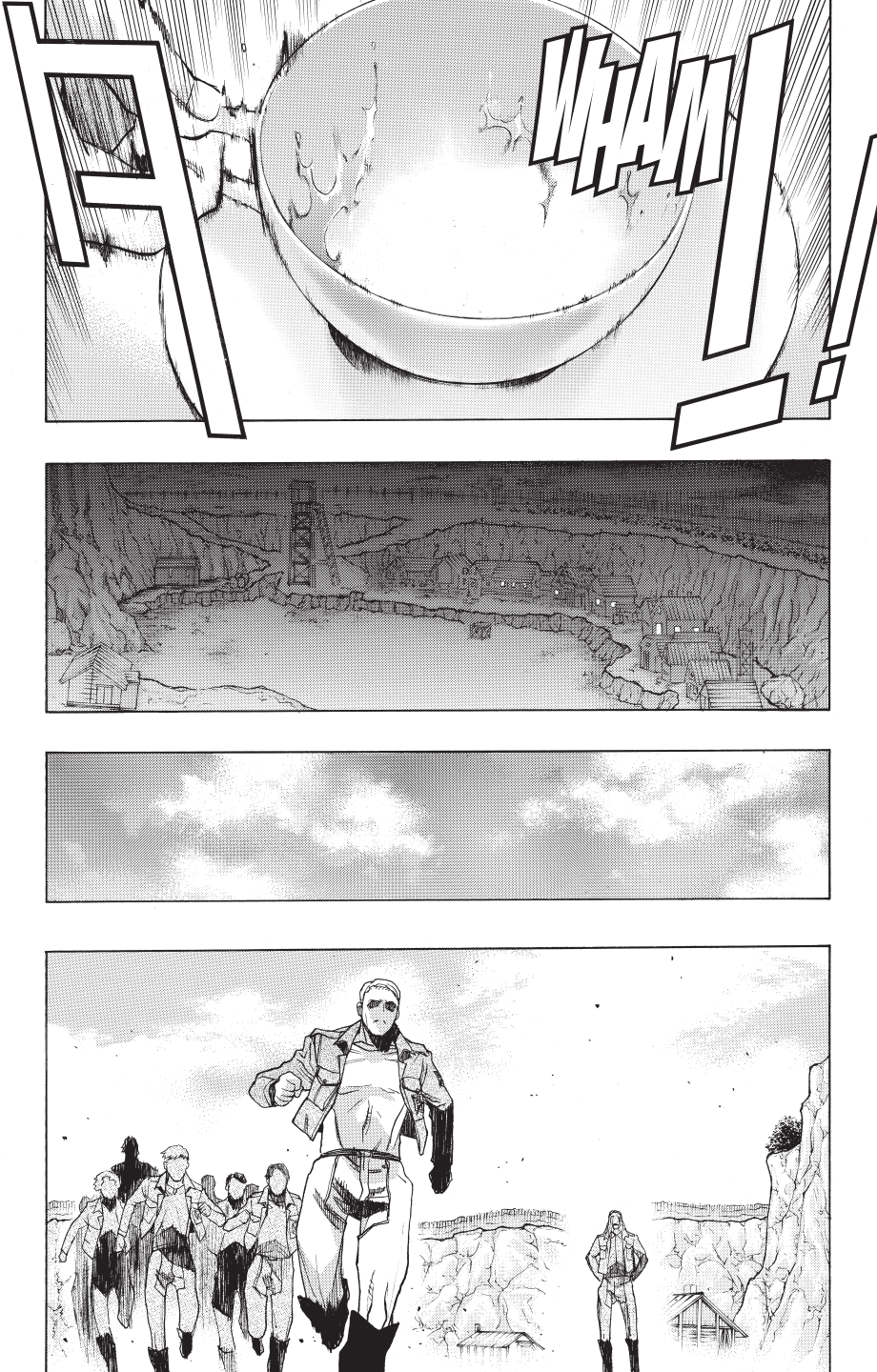
LET ME JUST SAY THIS.

AFTER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS OF TRAINING, IF WE DETERMINE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO COMPLETE THIS EXPEDITION...

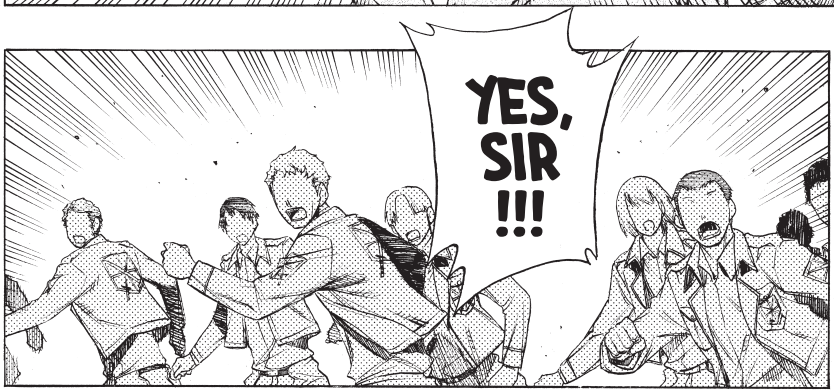
WE CANNOT SIMPLY SEND GREEN RECRUITS OUT INTO THE FIELD TO THEIR DEATHS.

...WE MUST ACCEPT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SURVEY CORPS.



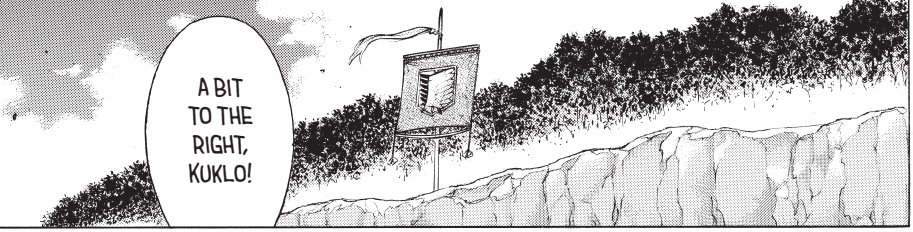

WHAM!

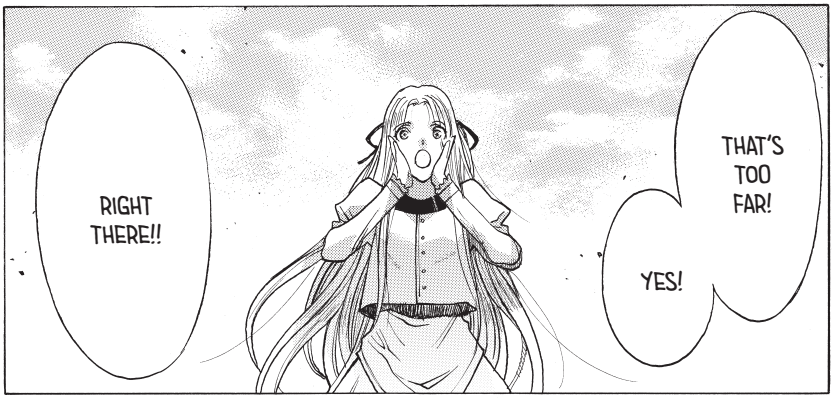
WHEN YOU HAVE ALL RETURNED, FALL IN BEFORE THE BARRACKS FIELD!
WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR RUNNING, WE WILL EXPLAIN YOUR NEW TRAINING BEFORE BREAKFAST!!


YES, SIR !!!

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.

SHH!
HEY, SHUT UP!
DON'T TRY TO SCARE ME!
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
I WONDER WHAT IT IS THIS TIME.


A BIT TO THE RIGHT, KUKLO!


RIGHT THERE!!
THAT'S TOO FAR!
YES!

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CLANK
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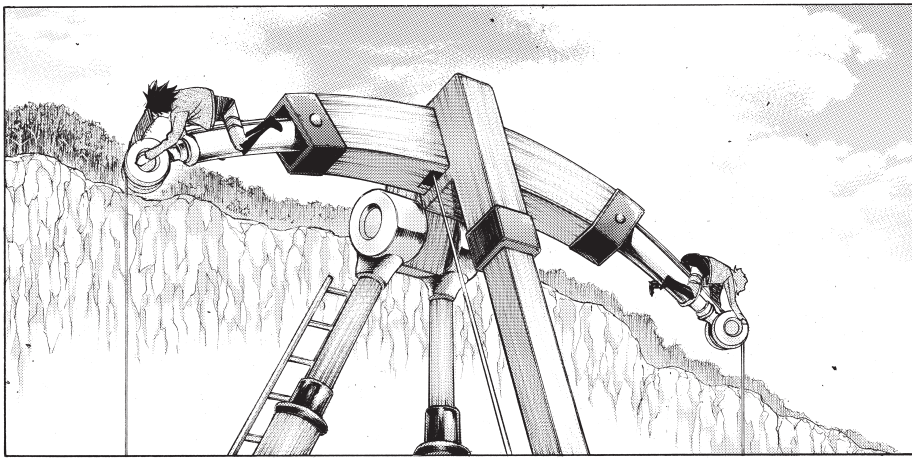
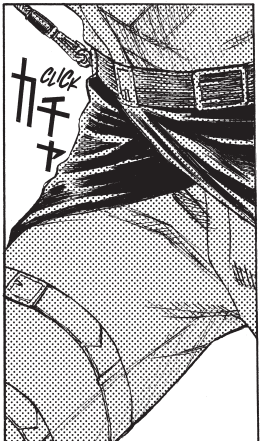
CLANK

OKAY!
GO AHEAD, I GOT IT.

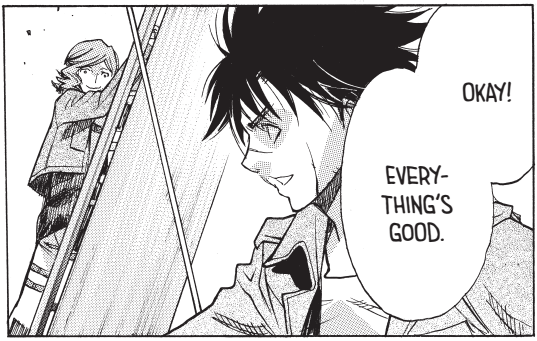



CLICK
カチャ

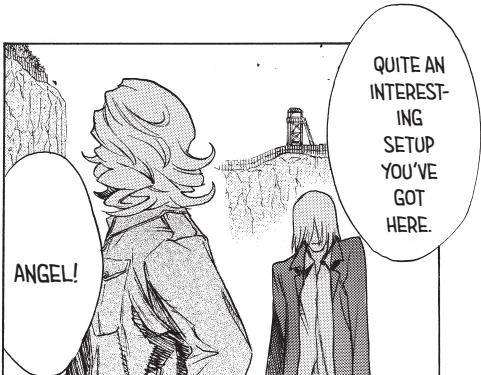
GRK...

GRGH...

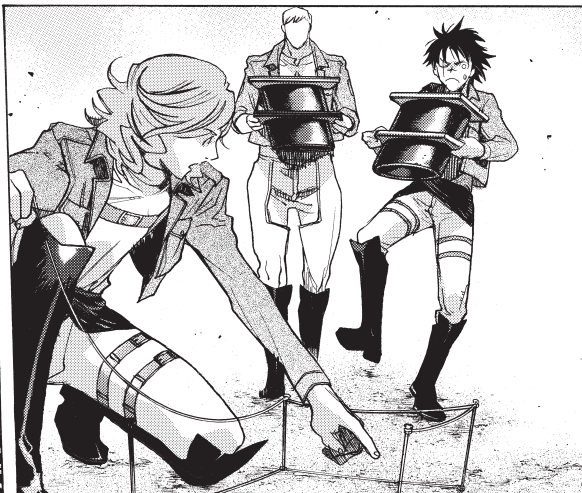
THEN LET'S BUILD THE OTHER TWO ALREADY.


OKAY!
EVERY-THING'S GOOD.

CAN YOU MAKE IT OUT?
JUST A FAINT OUTLINE, BUT IT'S THERE.


QUITE AN INTEREST-ING SETUP YOU'VE GOT HERE.
ANGEL!

AND I CAN TELL WHAT IT'S FOR, TOO.



カーン CLANK
カーン CLANK
I WONDER HOW MANY TRAINEES WILL SHOW THEMSELVES TO BE WORTHY...
I HAVE NO IDEA.
THEN I SUPPOSE IT SHOWS JORGE'S EXPERTISE IN CHOOSING TALENTED YOUNGSTERS FROM THE TRAINING ACADEMIES ALL OVER.
YOU THINK SO?
I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY'LL PERFORM, BUT BASED ON WHAT I'VE SEEN IN THE TRAINING EXERCISES, WE'VE GOT MANY THAT HAVE PROMISE.
TWO MONTHS IS STILL TOO SHORT.
カーン CLANK
BUT...

IF IT COMES TO IT, I'LL PULL DOWN A TITAN MYSELF.
...SO THERE WILL BE EVEN LESS PRACTICE TIME WITH THEM THAN WE THINK.
カーン
CLANK
AND WE'LL BE FAR SHORT ON THE NUMBER OF DEVICES TO USE AT FIRST...
カーン
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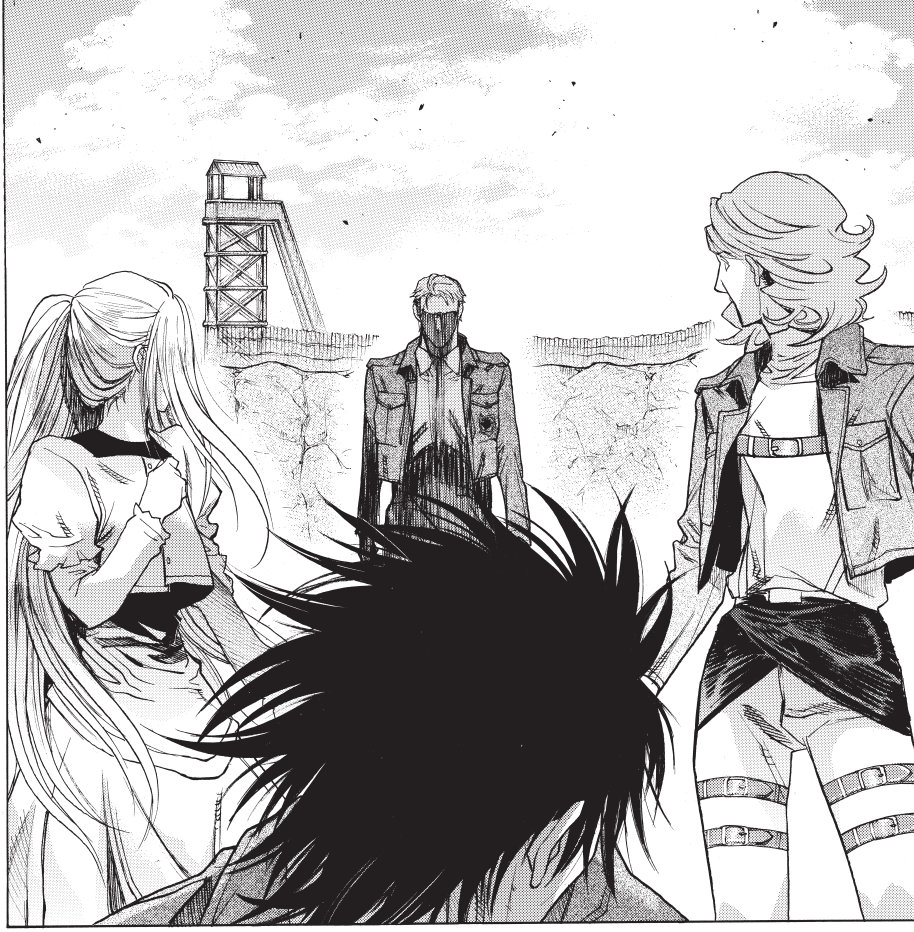
INSTRUCT-OR JORGE IS RIGHT, THEN—PERHAPS THE EXPEDITION WILL BE CANCELED BEFORE IT CAN HAPPEN.

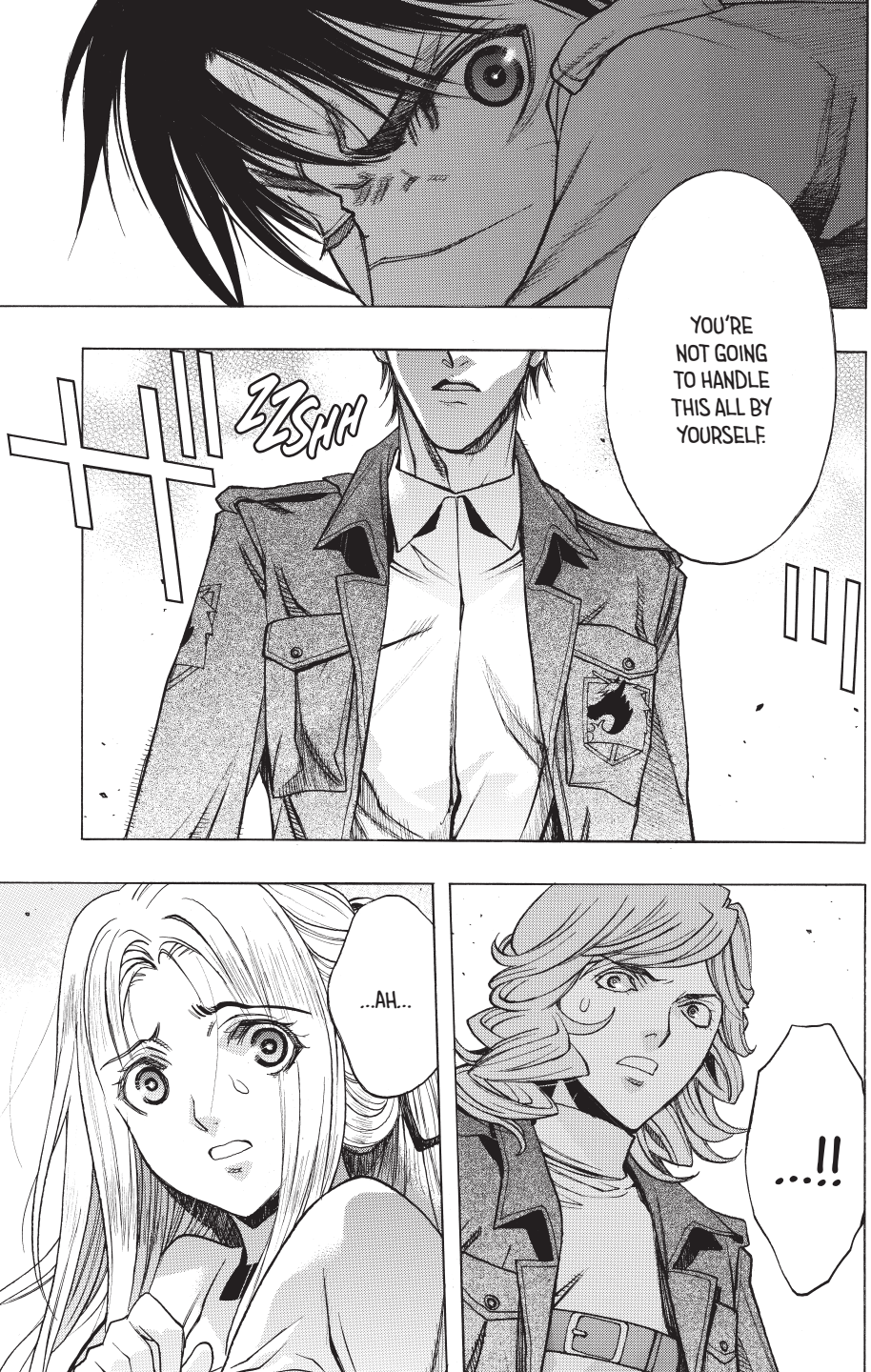
WHA...?
YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING.



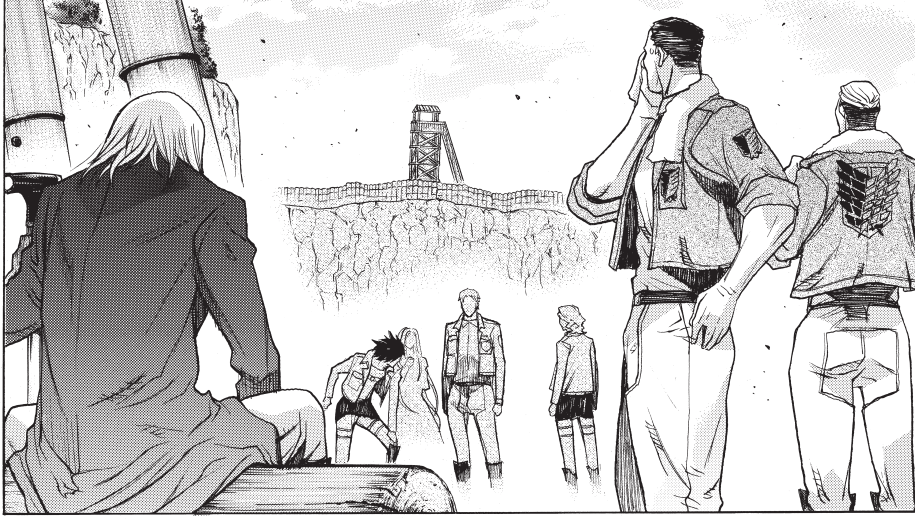
Chapter 46: Corps Crossroads · End

ATTACK ON TITAN

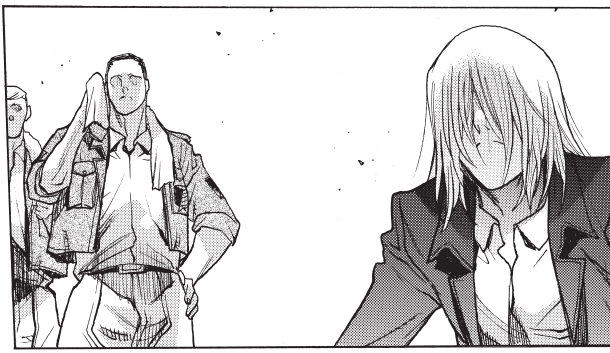
BEFORE THE FALL

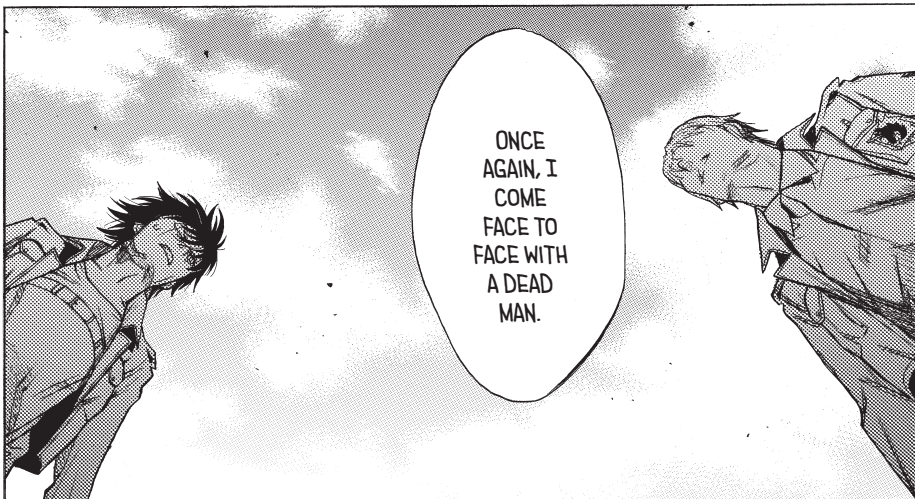

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HANDLE THIS ALL BY YOURSELF.
ZZSHH
...AH...
...!!

Chapter 47: Harbinger of Upheaval



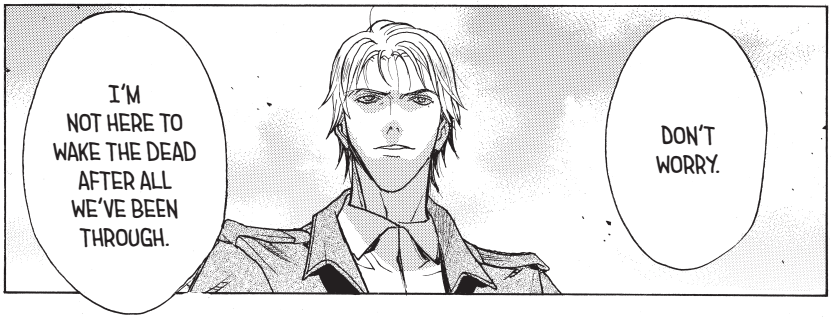
HEH...

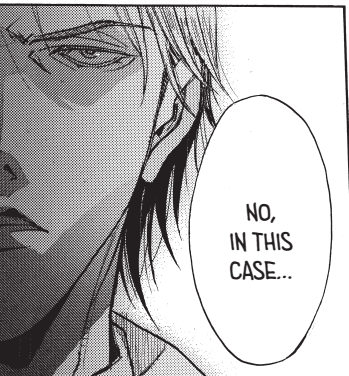


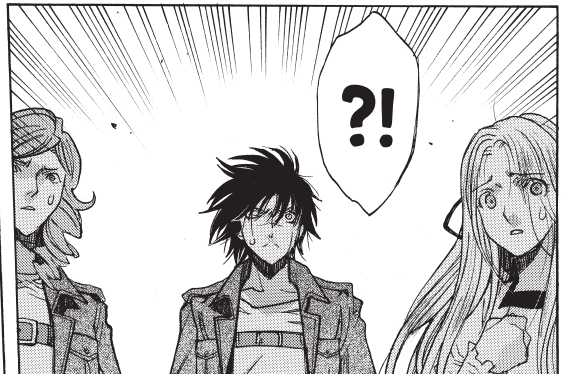

ONCE AGAIN, I COME FACE TO FACE WITH A DEAD MAN.

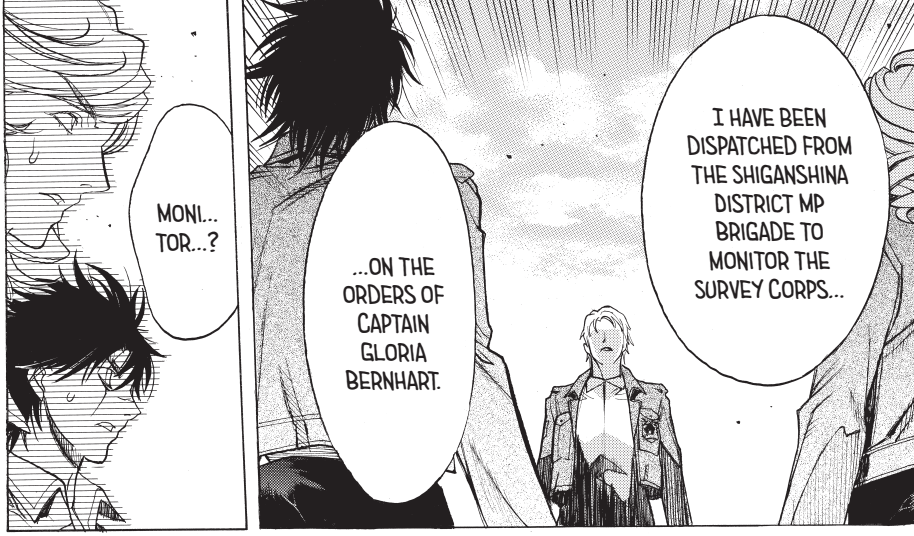
WHAT IS XAVI DOING HERE...?
HAS HE COME TO TAKE SHARLE BACK? NO... HAS HE COME TO ARREST ME?!

YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE STREAK OF LUCK, IT SEEMS.


DON'T WORRY.
I'M NOT HERE TO WAKE THE DEAD AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.

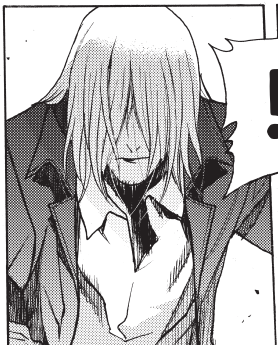

NO, IN THIS CASE...

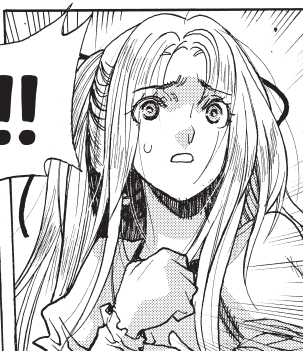

?!


MONI...
TOR...?
...ON THE ORDERS OF CAPTAIN GLORIA BERNHART.
I HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED FROM THE SHIGANSHINA DISTRICT MP BRIGADE TO MONITOR THE SURVEY CORPS...

TO SEE IF IT CAN TRULY BE OUR SECRET WEAPON AGAINST THE TITANS.
TO SEE IF THIS **VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT** REALLY STANDS UP TO PRACTICAL USE.

AND...



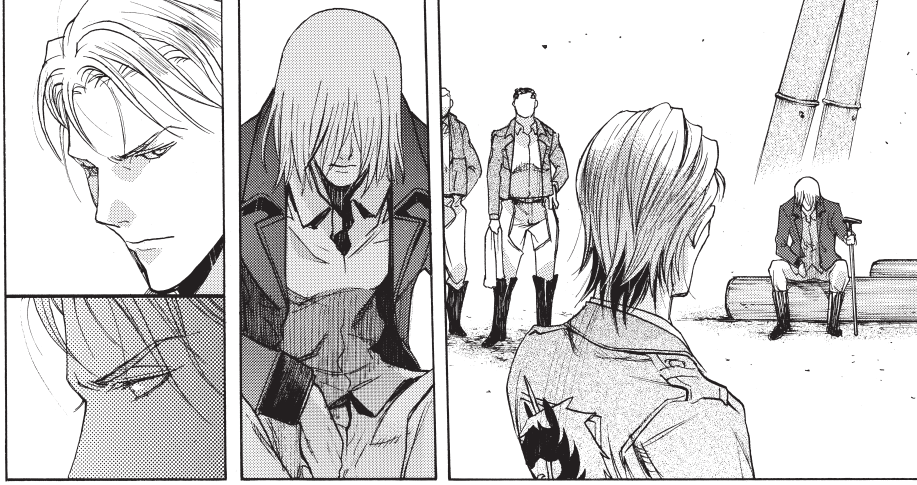

!!

...TO SEE IF THERE IS TRULY ANY MERIT TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE SURVEY CORPS.

MY PURPOSE WILL BE TO OBSERVE AND ASCERTAIN THESE THINGS.

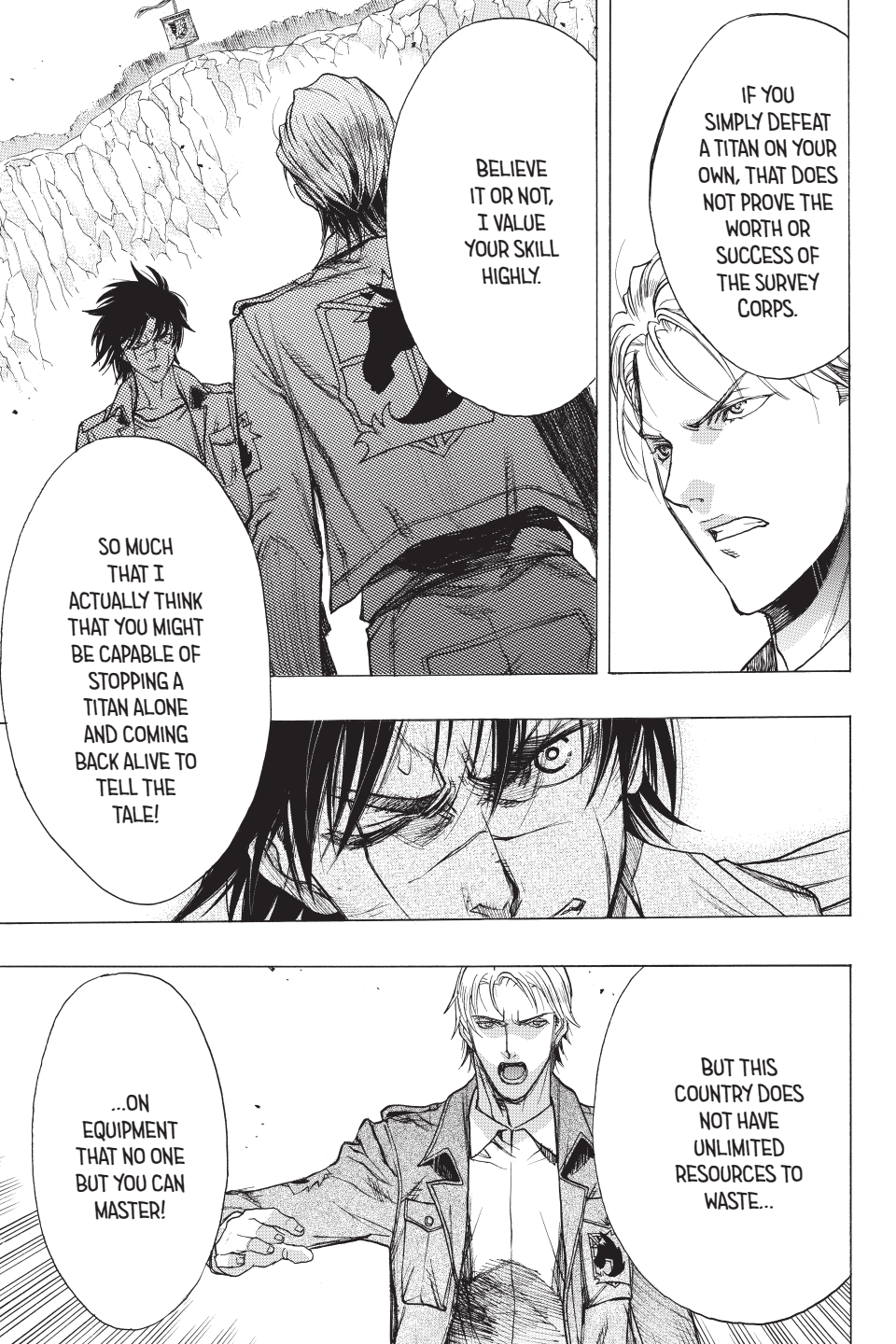
VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT MUST BE USABLE FOR ALL CORPS MEMBERS. IT IS MEANINGLESS IF ONLY ONE OR TWO PRODIGIES CAN WIELD IT.

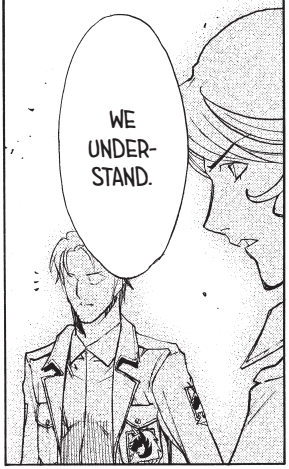
THIS IS CAPTAIN BERN-HART'S VIEW OF THE DEVICE.

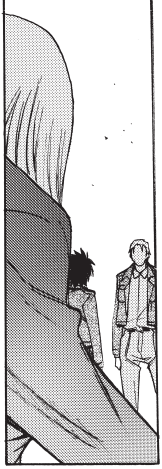


THEREFORE, AS YOUR MONITOR...
...I FORBID YOU FROM DEFEATING A TITAN SOLO, KUKLO!!

WHAT ...?!

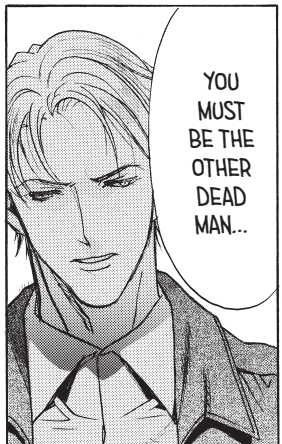

IF YOU SIMPLY DEFEAT A TITAN ON YOUR OWN, THAT DOES NOT PROVE THE WORTH OR SUCCESS OF THE SURVEY CORPS.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I VALUE YOUR SKILL HIGHLY.
SO MUCH THAT I ACTUALLY THINK THAT YOU MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF STOPPING A TITAN ALONE AND COMING BACK ALIVE TO TELL THE TALE!
BUT THIS COUNTRY DOES NOT HAVE UNLIMITED RESOURCES TO WASTE...
...ON EQUIPMENT THAT NO ONE BUT YOU CAN MASTER!

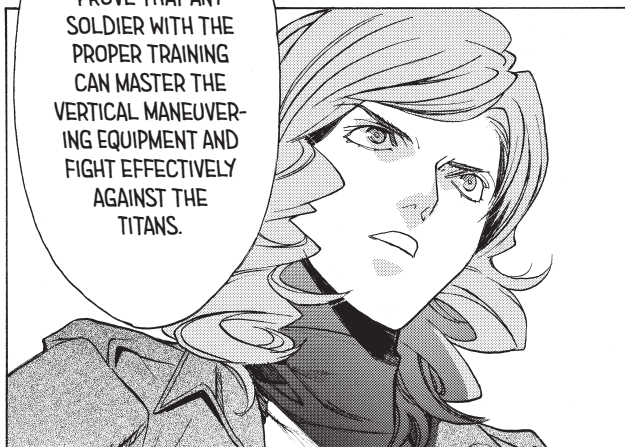

WE UNDER-STAND.

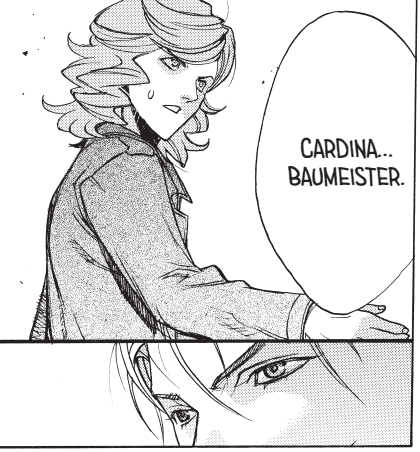


...!!

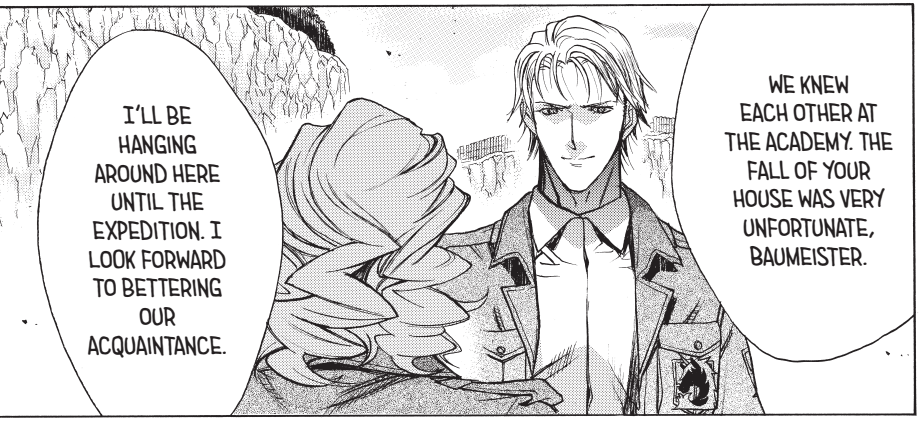
AND WE HAVE NEVER CONSIDERED SENDING KUKLO ALONE TO HANDLE THE TITANS.

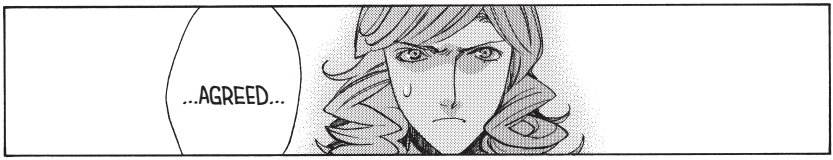

YOU MUST BE THE OTHER DEAD MAN...


WE WILL PROVE THAT ANY SOLDIER WITH THE PROPER TRAINING CAN MASTER THE VERTICAL MANEUVER-ING EQUIPMENT AND FIGHT EFFECTIVELY AGAINST THE TITANS.

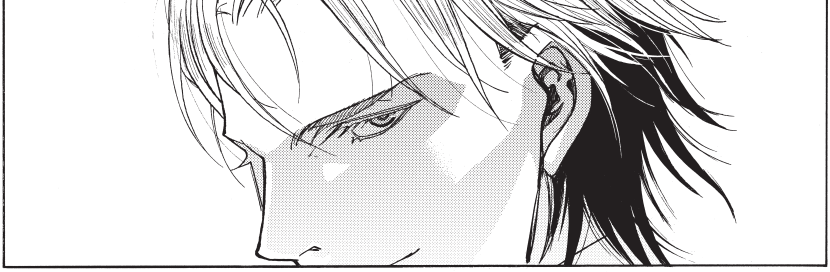

CARDINA... BAUMEISTER.

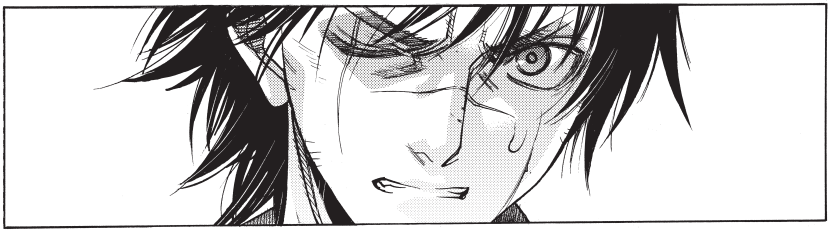
XAVI INOCENCIO.

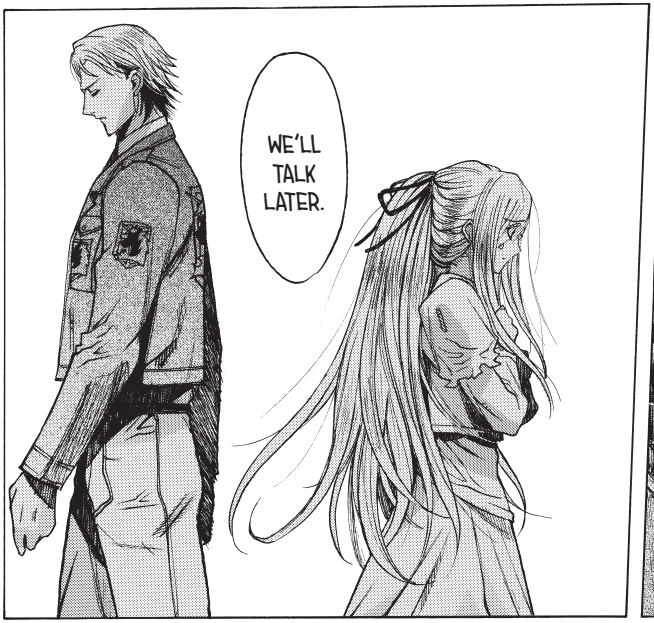

I'LL BE HANGING AROUND HERE UNTIL THE EXPEDITION. I LOOK FORWARD TO BETTERING OUR ACQUAINTANCE.
WE KNEW EACH OTHER AT THE ACADEMY. THE FALL OF YOUR HOUSE WAS VERY UNFORTUNATE, BAUMEISTER.


...AGREED...

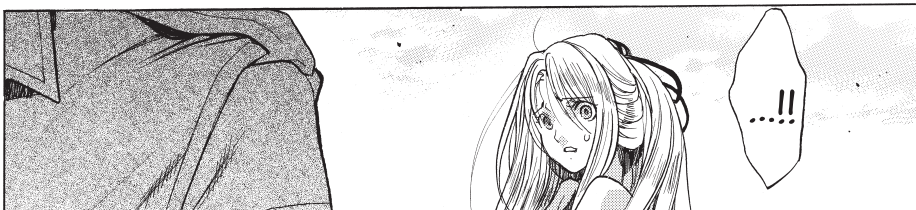
WELL, I MUST BE GOING. I'VE GOT TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO CAPTAIN PIKALE, TOO.

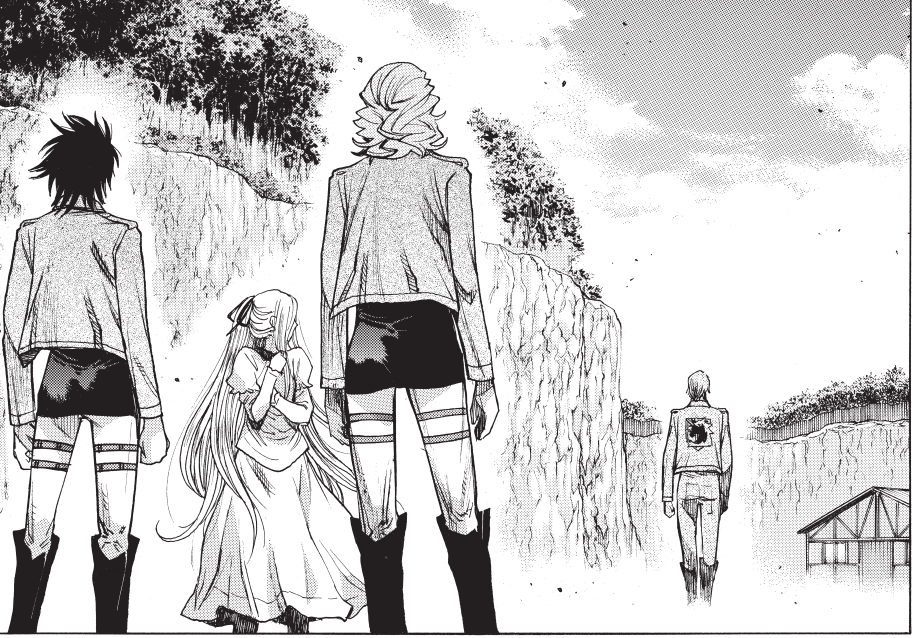


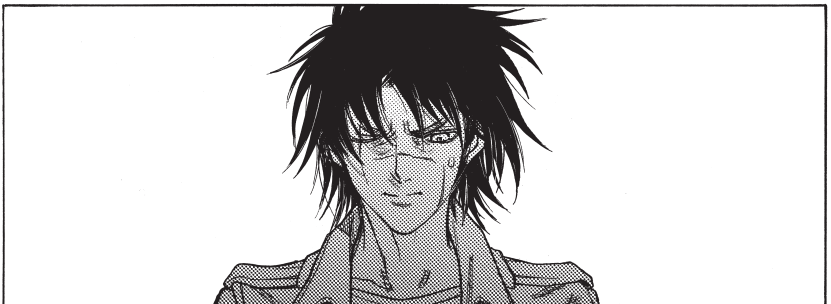


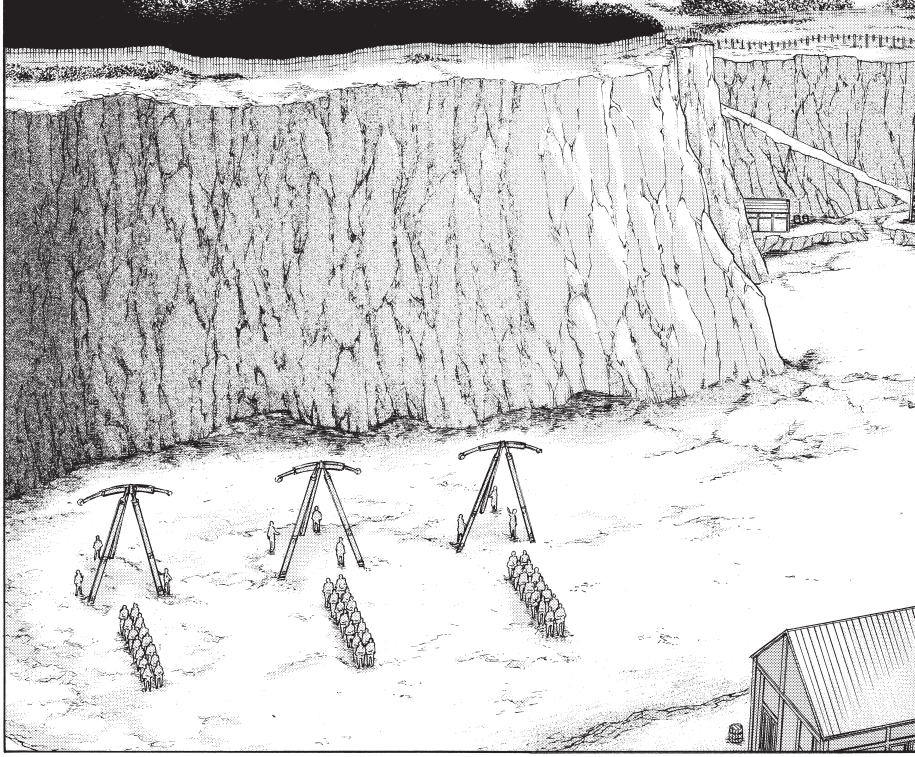

WE'LL TALK LATER.

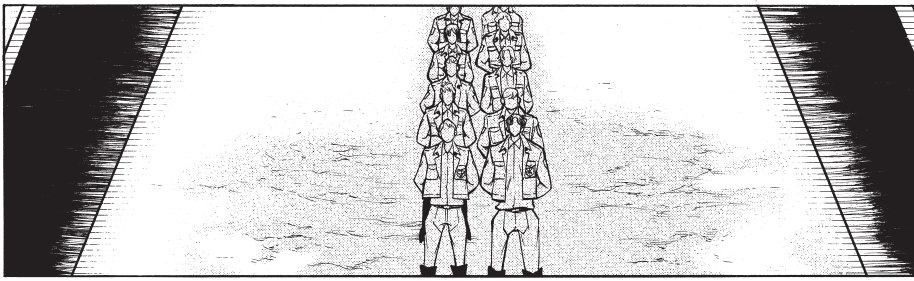
SWISHIII

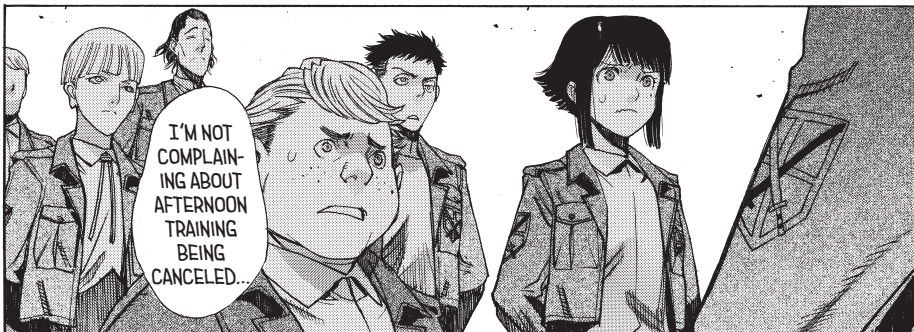

...!!

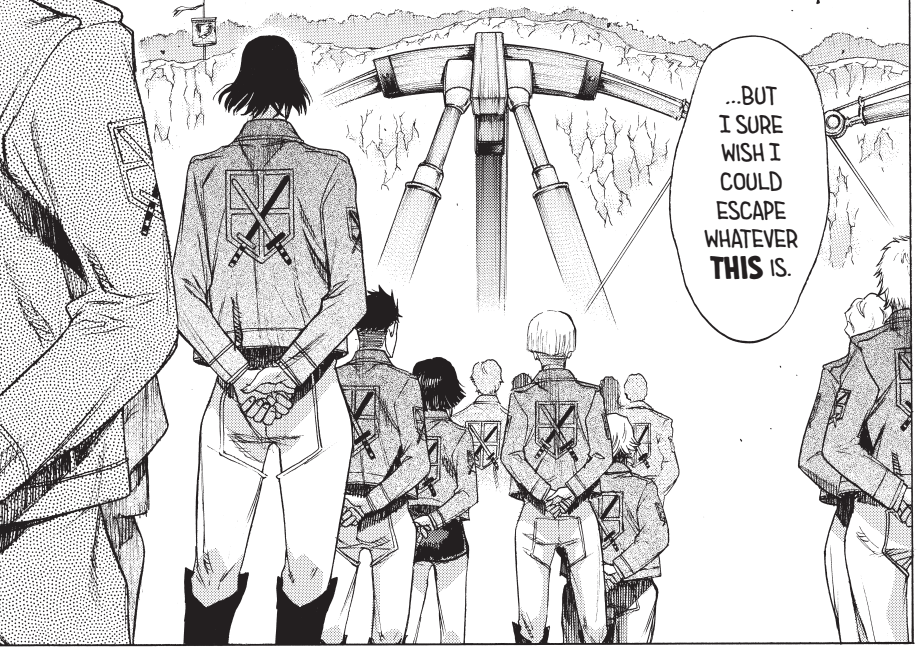


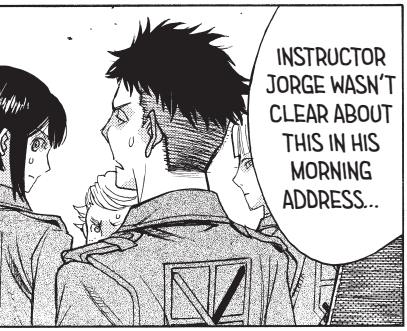


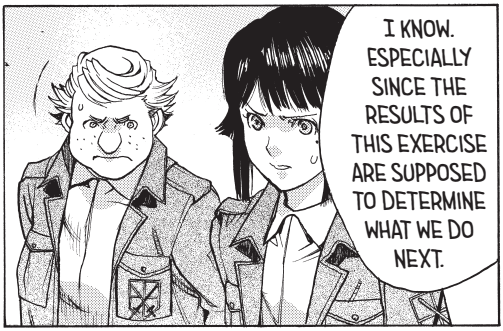


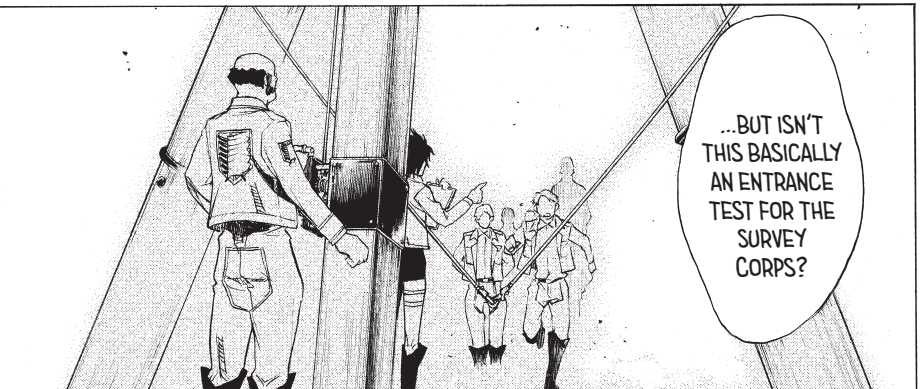


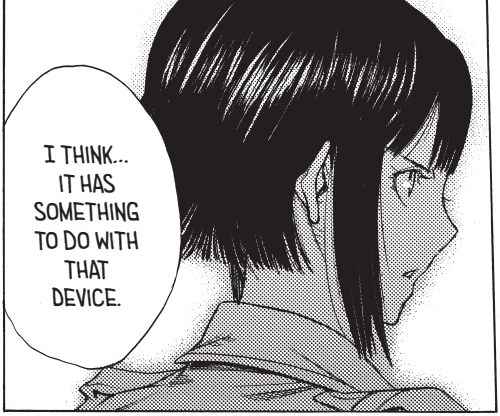

I'M NOT COMPLAIN-ING ABOUT AFTERNOON TRAINING BEING CANCELED...

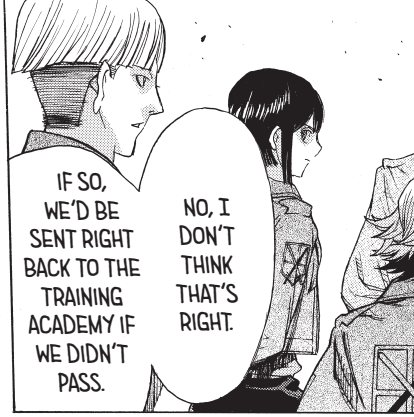

...BUT I SURE WISH I COULD ESCAPE WHATEVER **THIS** IS.

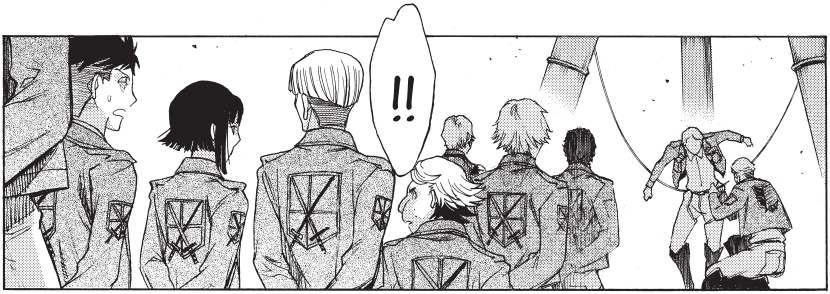

INSTRUCTOR JORGE WASN'T CLEAR ABOUT THIS IN HIS MORNING ADDRESS...


I KNOW. ESPECIALLY SINCE THE RESULTS OF THIS EXERCISE ARE SUPPOSED TO DETERMINE WHAT WE DO NEXT.


...BUT ISN'T THIS BASICALLY AN ENTRANCE TEST FOR THE SURVEY CORPS?


I THINK... IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT DEVICE.

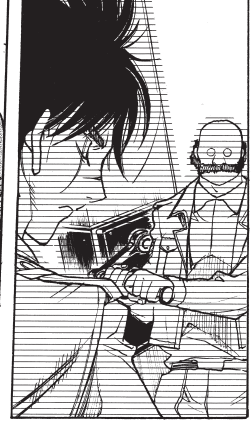

NO, I DON'T THINK THAT'S RIGHT.
IF SO, WE'D BE SENT RIGHT BACK TO THE TRAINING ACADEMY IF WE DIDN'T PASS.

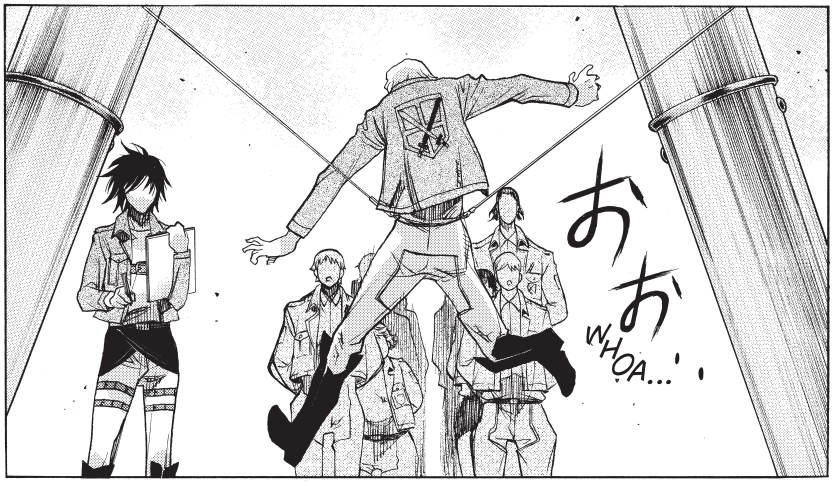

!!

EYES UP HERE !!!
WE'RE GOING TO LIFT YOU ON THESE ROPES!! YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR BALANCE WHILE SUSPENDED!!!

キリ CRIK
キリ CRIK
CRIK キリ

キリ CRK...




おお
WHOA...

AAH!
FWOOP

AAAHH...
GRR...
UH...
カチャ CLINK
CHANK カチャ

HRG!
HMM...
カチャ CLINK

WHOOSH

EEEP !!

WHEN YOU'RE DONE, RETURN TO THE BACK OF THE LINE! YOU MAY TAKE A SEAT AND REST!

NEXT!

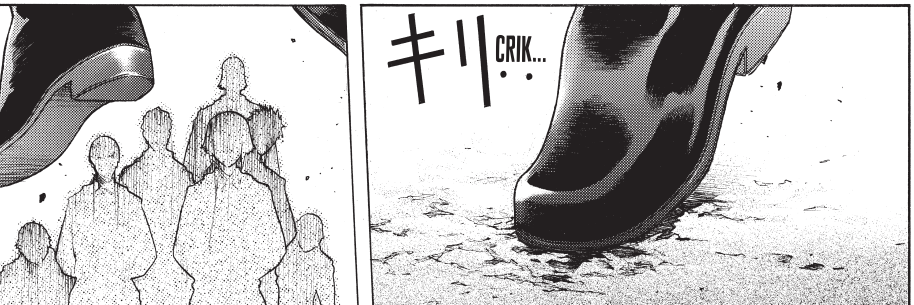
ギシ GRIK

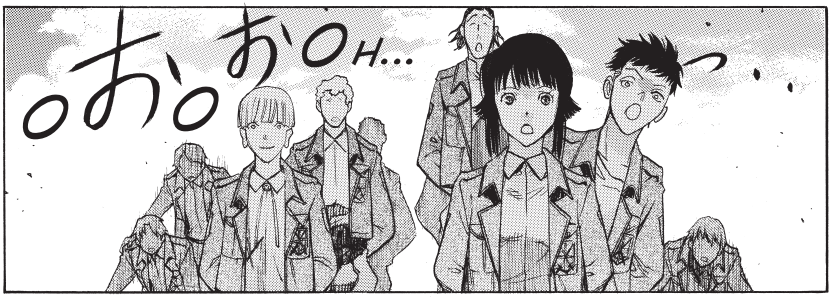
ギシ GRIK

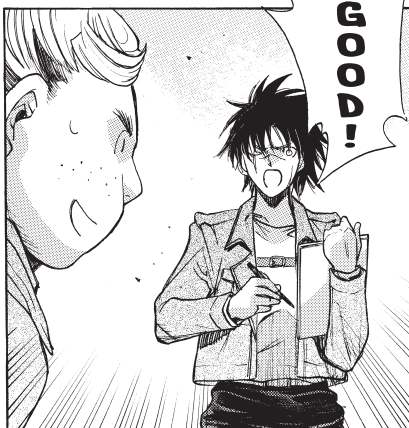
SO... WHAT KIND OF TEST...

...IS THIS ...?

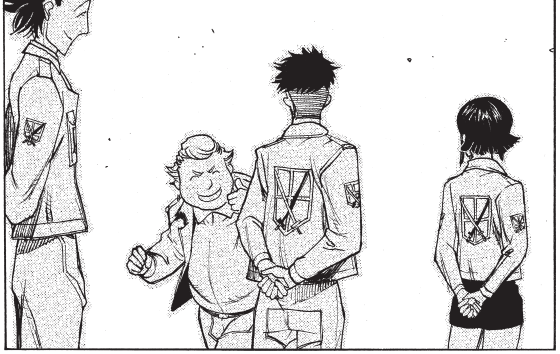
NEXT!!

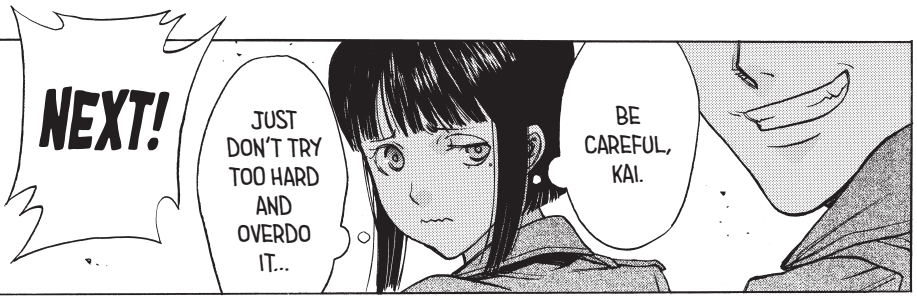

キリ CRIK...

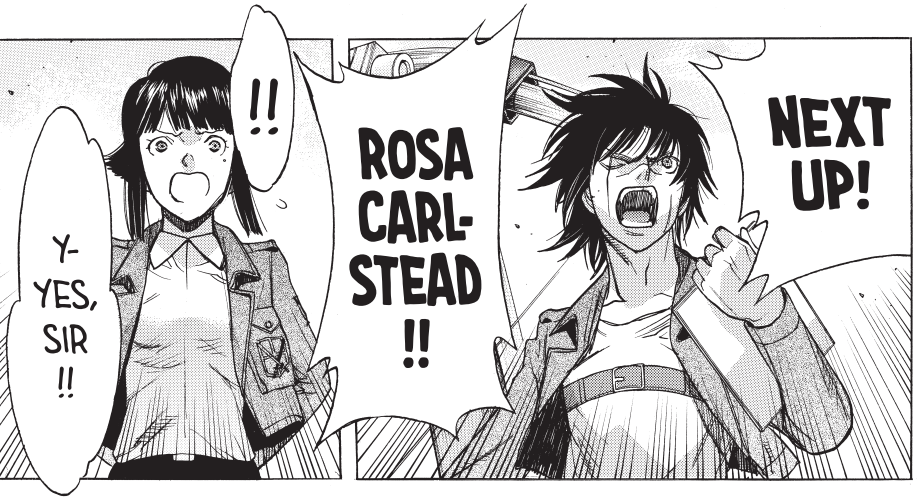

おおおH...

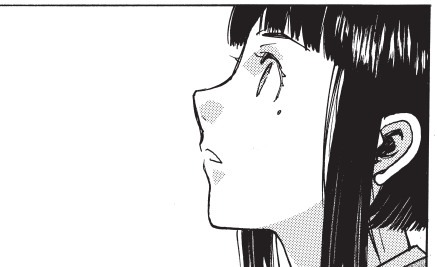

GOOD!

HEH! I BET I CAN DO THAT TOO!

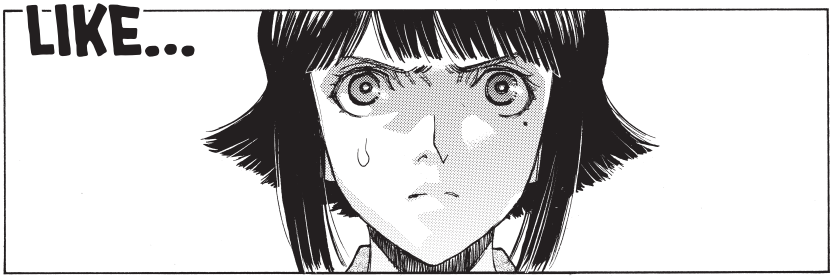


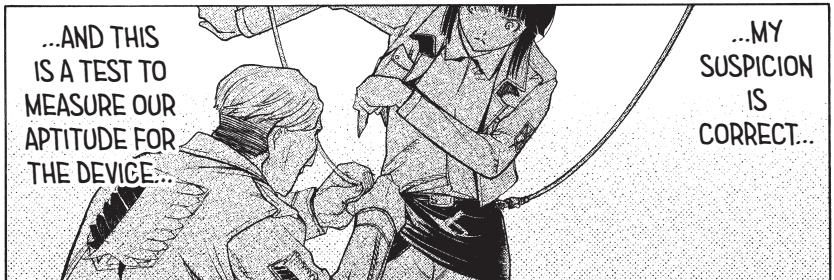

NEXT!
JUST DON'T TRY TOO HARD AND OVERDO IT...
BE CAREFUL, KAI.


!!
Y-YES, SIR !!
ROSA CARL-STEAD !!
NEXT UP!

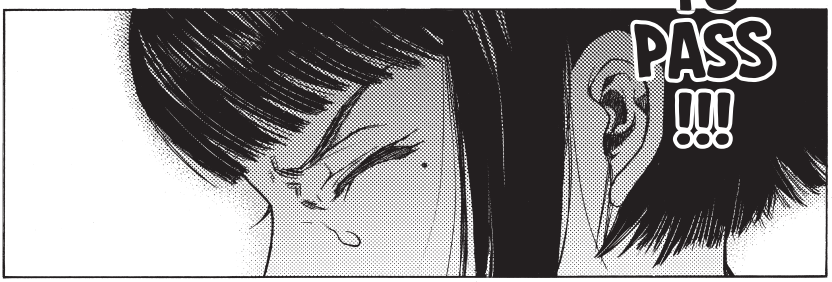


I FEEL LIKE...

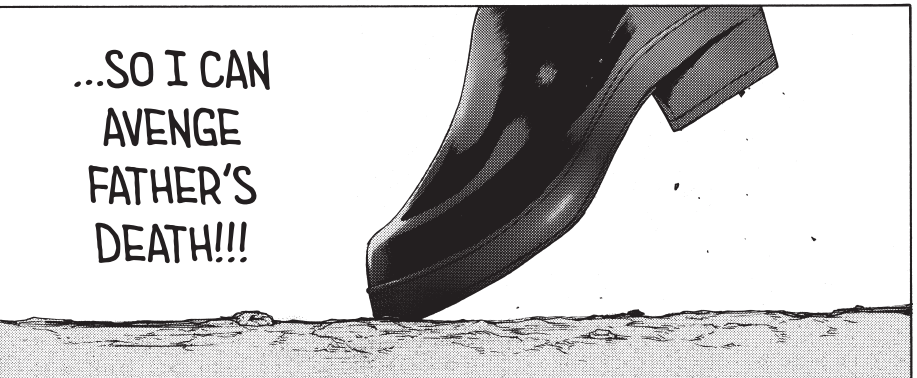



...AND THIS IS A TEST TO MEASURE OUR APTITUDE FOR THE DEVICE...
...MY SUSPICION IS CORRECT...

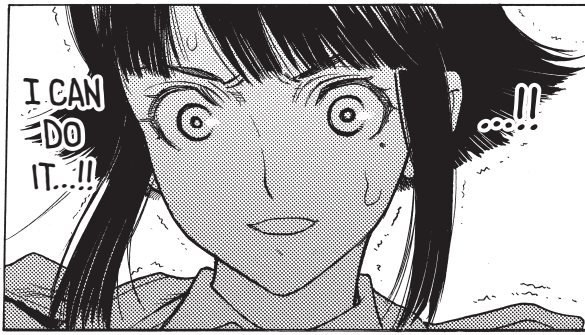
HAUL HER UP!


I WANT TO PASS !!!

...AS WE GO ON AN EXPEDITION...
I WANT TO WEAR THE DEVICE, AND STAND AT HIS SIDE...


...SO I CAN AVENGE FATHER'S DEATH!!!

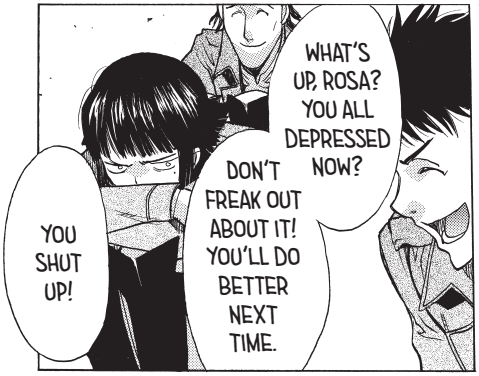
...HMM? WHAT...?
CLINK
IT'S A LOT EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
CLINK


I CAN DO IT...!!
...!!

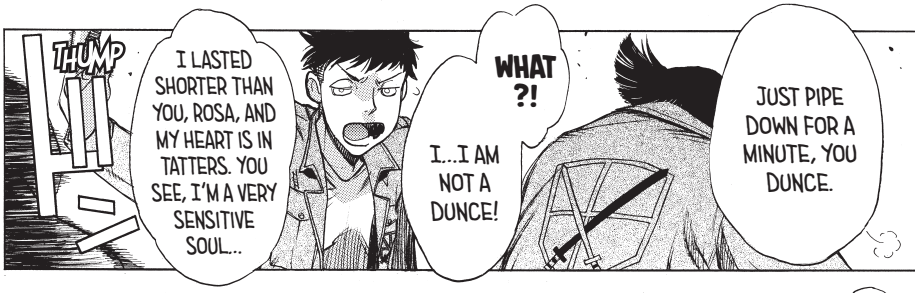
H-HANG ON! THAT'S RIGHT, BE LIKE IVO, LET INSTINCT TAKE OVER...
CLANK
CLANK
CLINK
CLINK

...AND...

WHAT THE ...?!

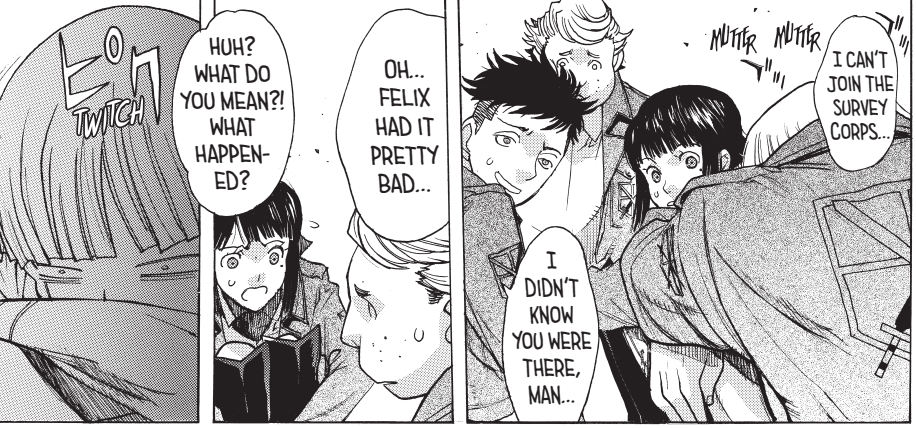

WHAT'S UP, ROSA? YOU ALL DEPRESSED NOW?
DON'T FREAK OUT ABOUT IT! YOU'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME.
YOU SHUT UP!

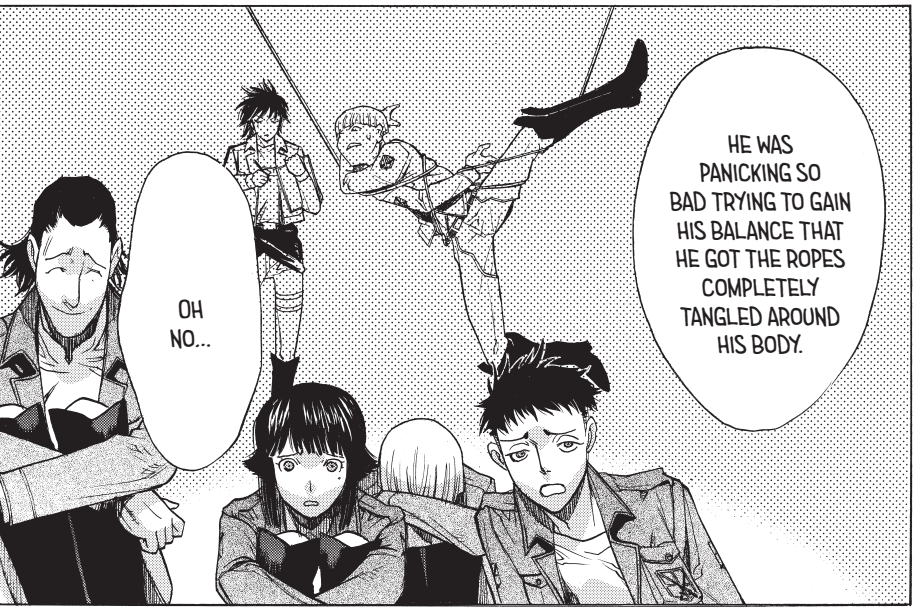
DAMN! I SCREWED UP. THAT THING'S TOUGH!
THUMP

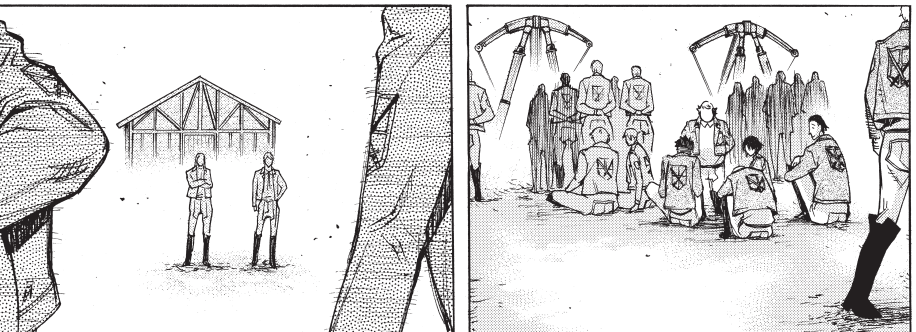

THUMP
I LASTED SHORTER THAN YOU, ROSA, AND MY HEART IS IN TATTERS. YOU SEE, I'M A VERY SENSITIVE SOUL...
WHAT ?!
I...I AM NOT A DUNCE!
JUST PIPE DOWN FOR A MINUTE, YOU DUNCE.

MUTTER
MUTTER
I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO USE THE DEVICE...
I FAILED ...

HEY! FELIX?!
OH... SORRY.

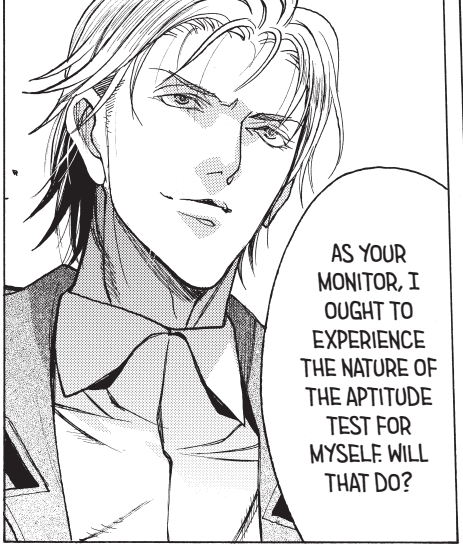

TWITCH
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! WHAT HAPPEN-ED?
OH... FELIX HAD IT PRETTY BAD...
MUTTER MUTTER
I CAN'T JOIN THE SURVEY CORPS...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THERE, MAN...

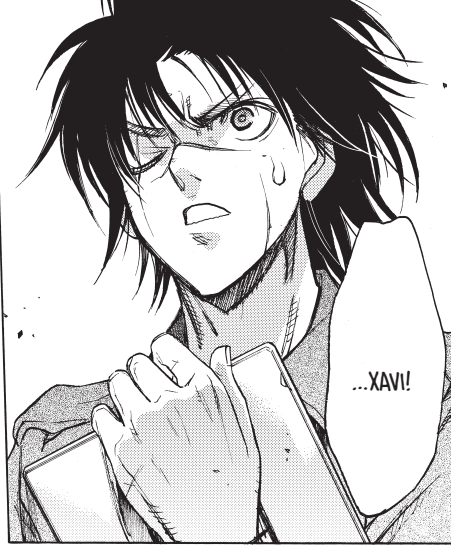

OH NO...
HE WAS PANICKING SO BAD TRYING TO GAIN HIS BALANCE THAT HE GOT THE ROPES COMPLETELY TANGLED AROUND HIS BODY.

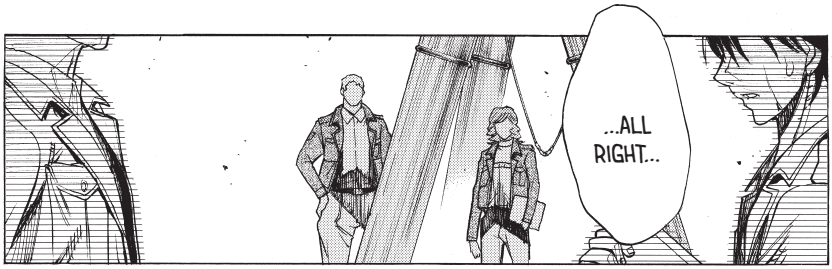


I DON'T THINK ANY OF THESE PEOPLE ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THE POINT OF THIS TEST IS.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE. NOT WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE DEVICE IS.
THAT MP FELLOW, THE ONE WHO CAME BY TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF EARLIER...
HMM!
WHAT IS IT?

THAT SHOULD BE ALL OF THEM.
DONE! TAKE A BREAK IN THE BACK UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS!
MAY I TAKE A SPIN?


AS YOUR MONITOR, I OUGHT TO EXPERIENCE THE NATURE OF THE APTITUDE TEST FOR MYSELF. WILL THAT DO?


...XAVI!


...ALL RIGHT...

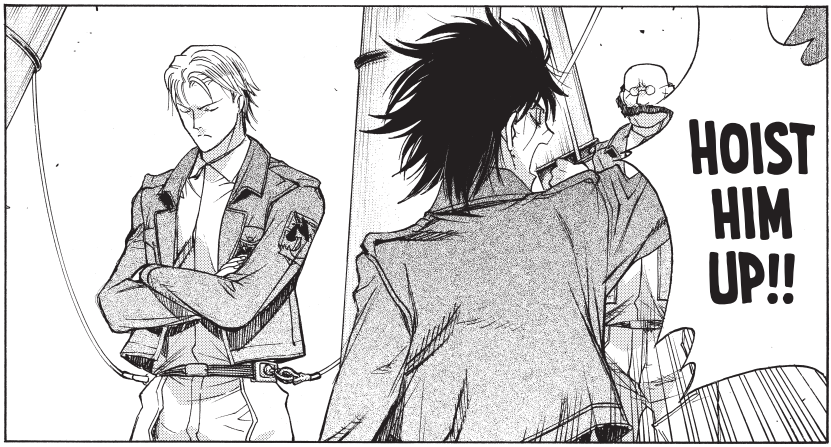
カチャ
KAK

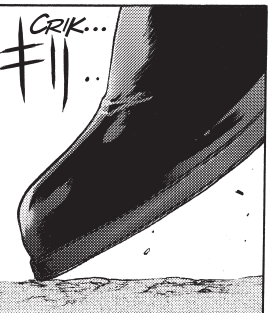
WAIT... WHO'S THAT?
THAT WASN'T EVERYONE YET?

MURMUR
MILI-TARY POLICE ?!

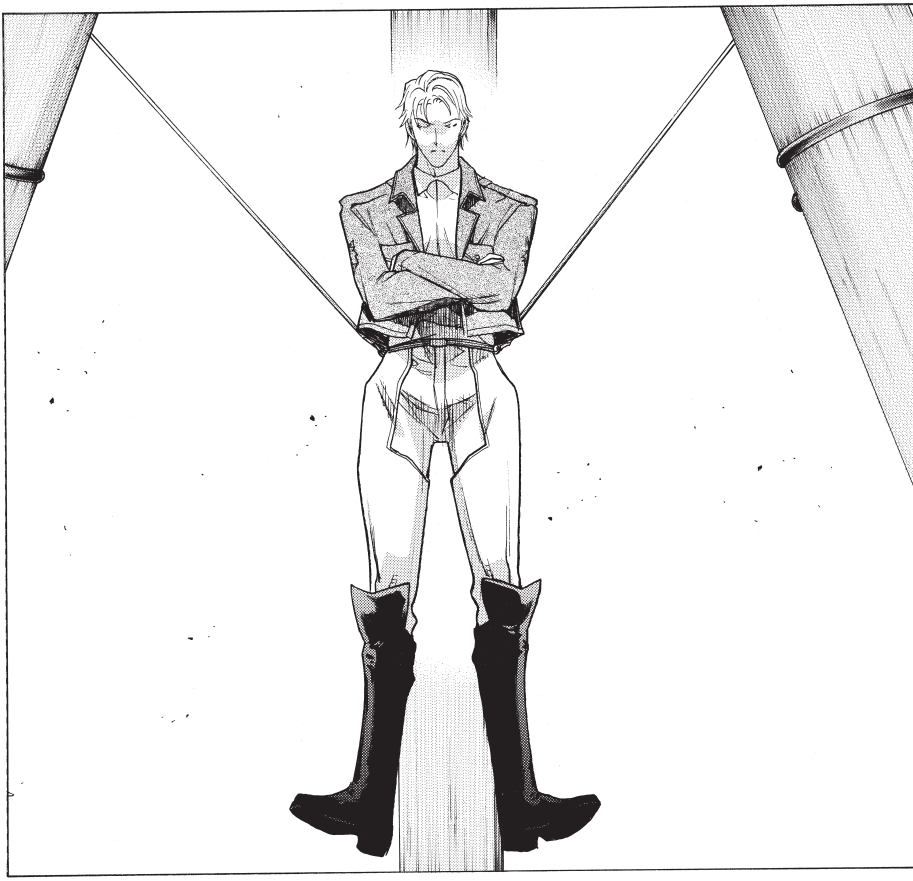
WHAT ?!
THAT'S... AN MP UNIFORM...

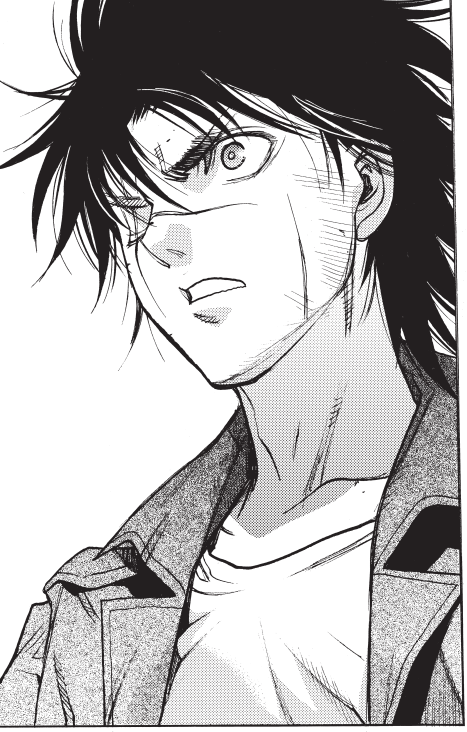
WHAT ARE THE MPs DOING HERE...?

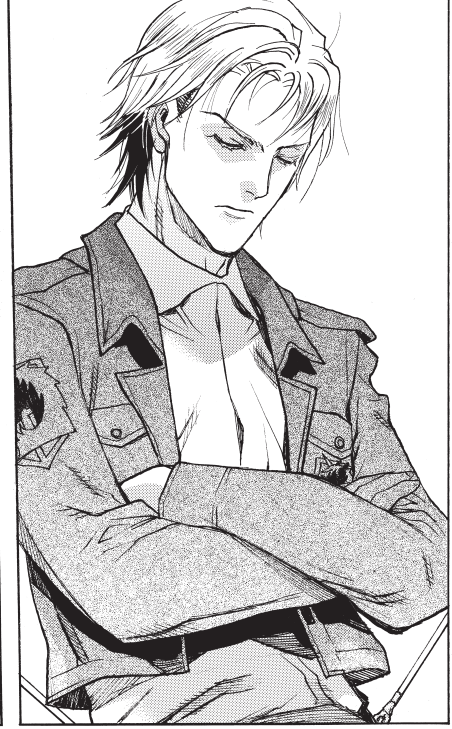

HOIST HIM UP!!

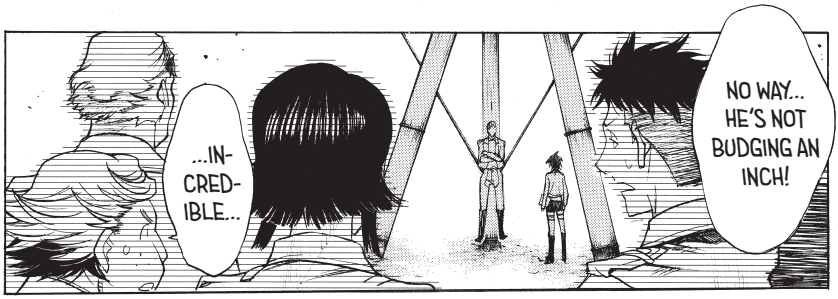

CRIK...

CRIK
CRIK
HEY, THERE HE GOES!
YOU MEAN THAT GUY'S GONNA TAKE THE TEST TOO...?

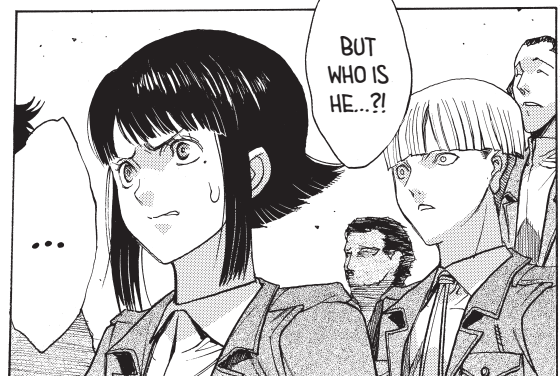




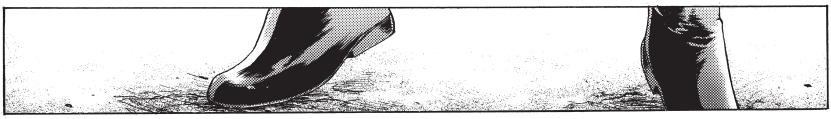


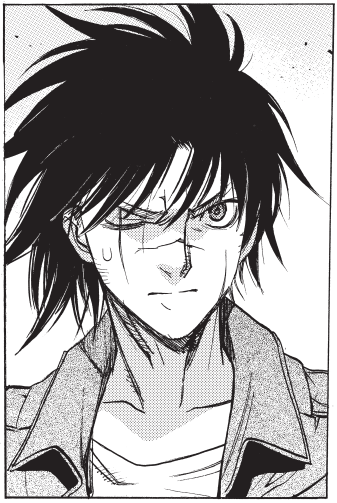

...IN-CRED-IBLE...
NO WAY... HE'S NOT BUDGING AN INCH!

HMM?

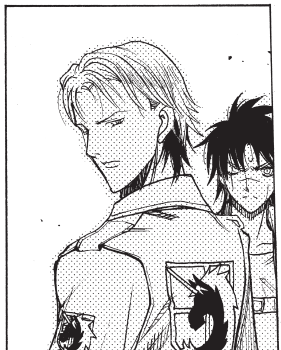

...
BUT WHO IS HE...?!

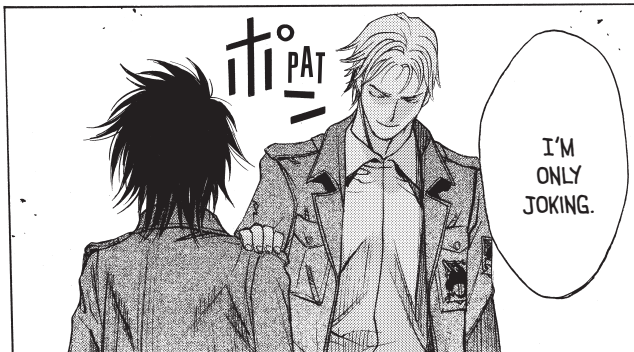
LOWER THE ROPES!
N...
NO, THAT'S ENOUGH.
IS THERE MORE TO THIS?





WHAT DO YOU THINK? HAVE I GOT WHAT IT TAKES FOR YOUR VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT?
HMPH... SO THAT'S IT.
CLINK カチャ




ポン PAT
I'M ONLY JOKING.

CAPTAIN CARLO!! THIS IS AS GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY AS ANY!!

WILL YOU INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR CADETS?!

BREAK TIME IS OVER! FALL IN!!

ZSH

ザ

THAT WILL BE ALL FOR TODAY'S TEST!!

HE MAY BE YOUNG, BUT HE HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO MONITOR THE SURVEY CORPS AND OBSERVE YOUR TRAINING!

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO XAVI INOCENCIO OF THE MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE!

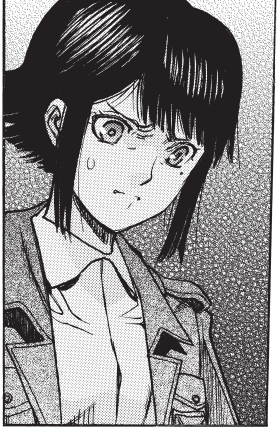
...SO IT WILL BEHOOVE YOU ALL TO RECOGNIZE HIM!!

HE WILL BE COMING AND GOING AROUND OUR FACILITIES AND TRAINING GROUNDS...

A MONITOR...?!

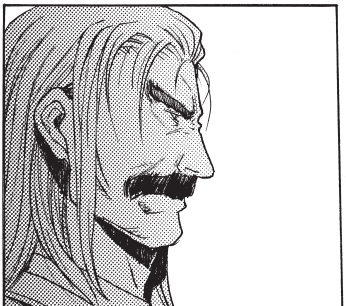
HUP

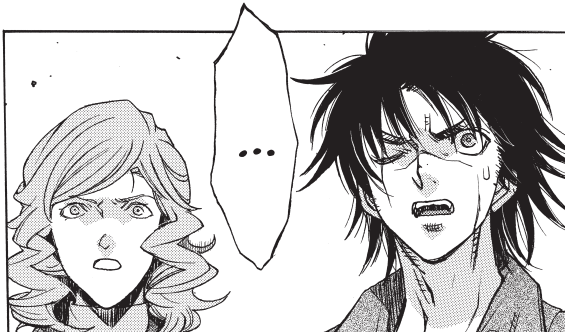
TOK



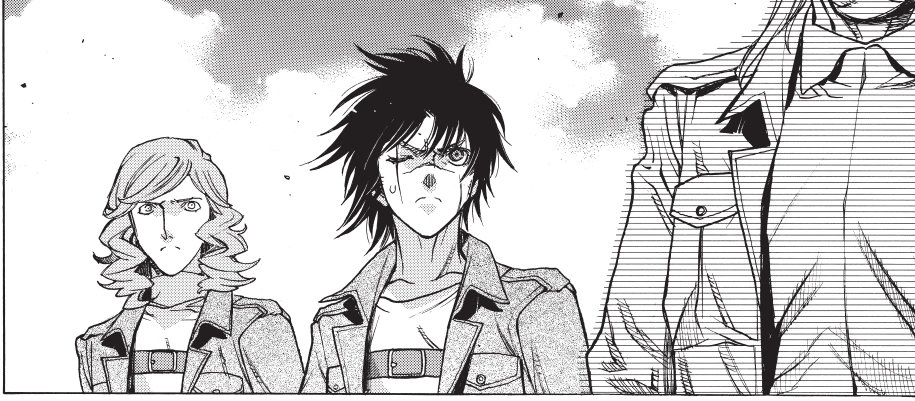
BUT HE JUST ACHIEVED THAT INCREDIBLE RESULT IN THE TEST!!
NOT A POTENTIAL RECRUIT?

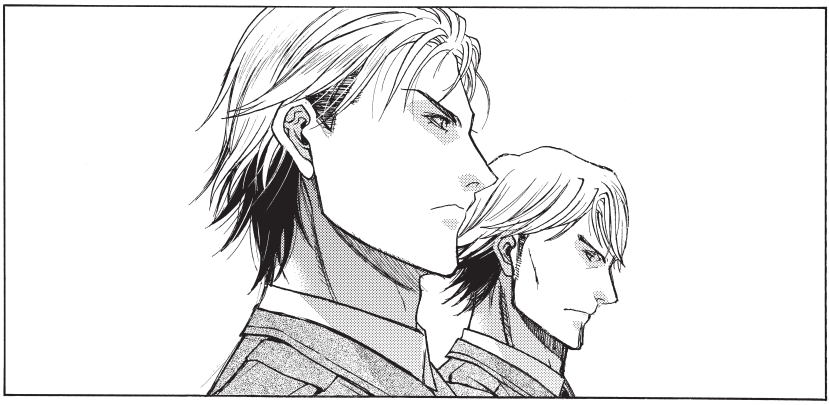
!!
IT HAS ALSO BEEN DECIDED THAT HE WILL JOIN US ON THE COMING EXPEDI-TION!

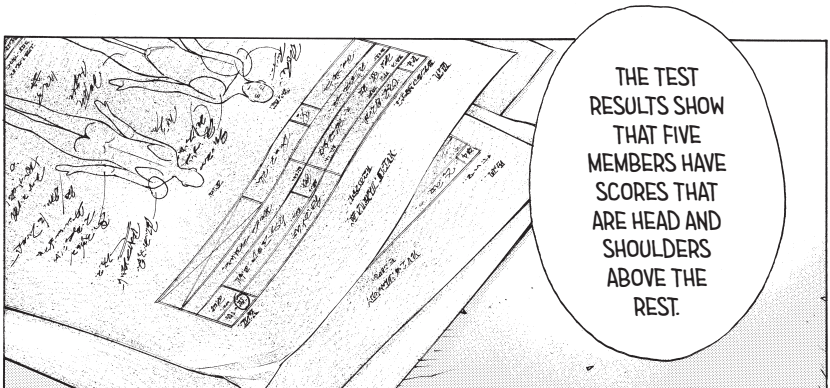


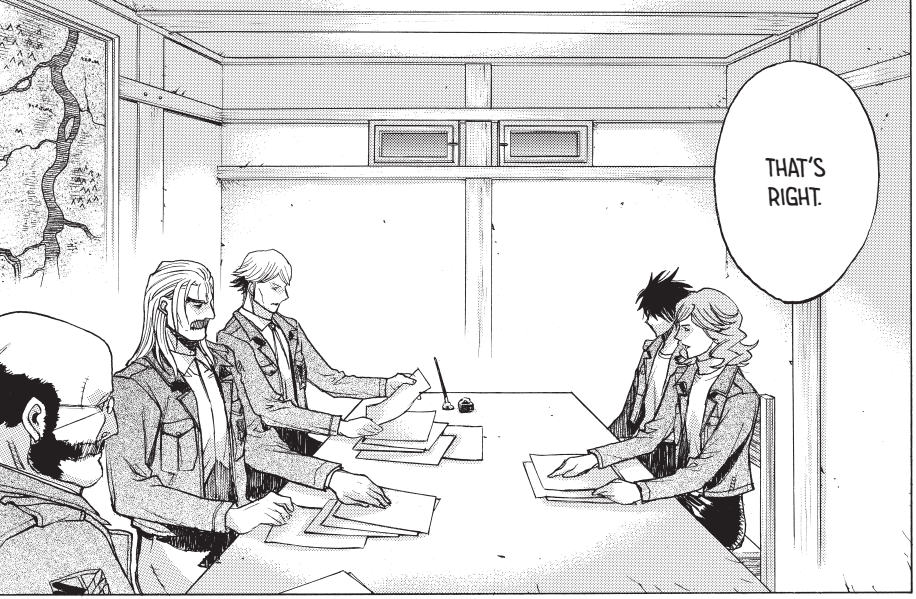

...

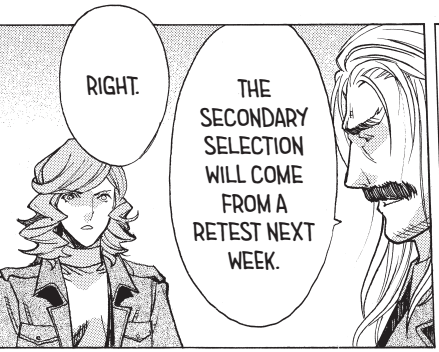
THE MEMBERS OF THAT EXPEDITION WILL BE CHOSEN FROM YOUR RANKS!!
THEREFORE, YOU OUGHT TO GET ALONG WITH HIM!
THAT IS ALL !! DIS-MISSED !!!
WHUP

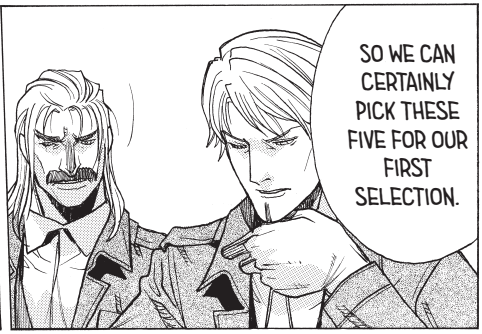


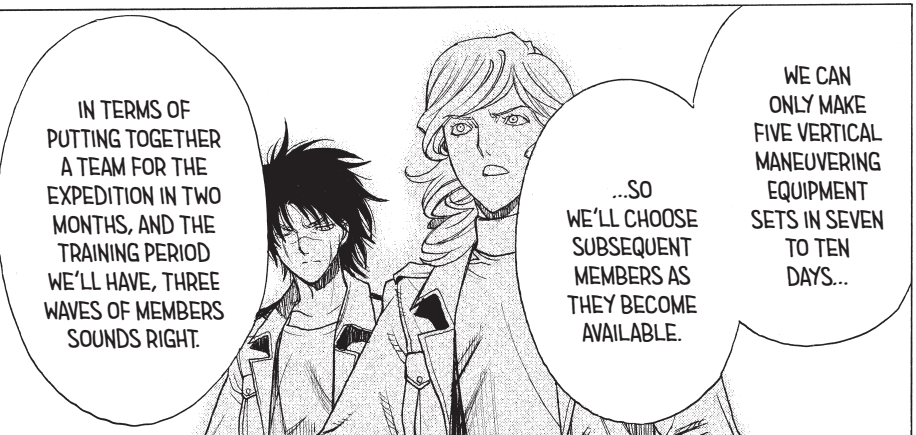


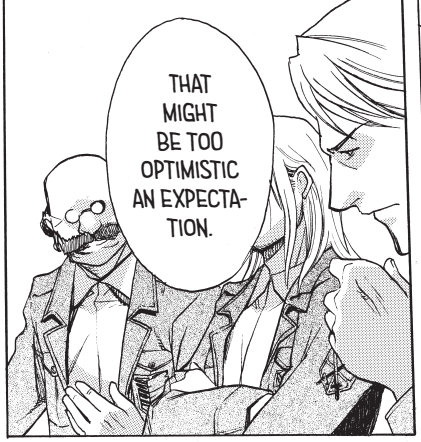

THE TEST RESULTS SHOW THAT FIVE MEMBERS HAVE SCORES THAT ARE HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST.


THAT'S RIGHT.

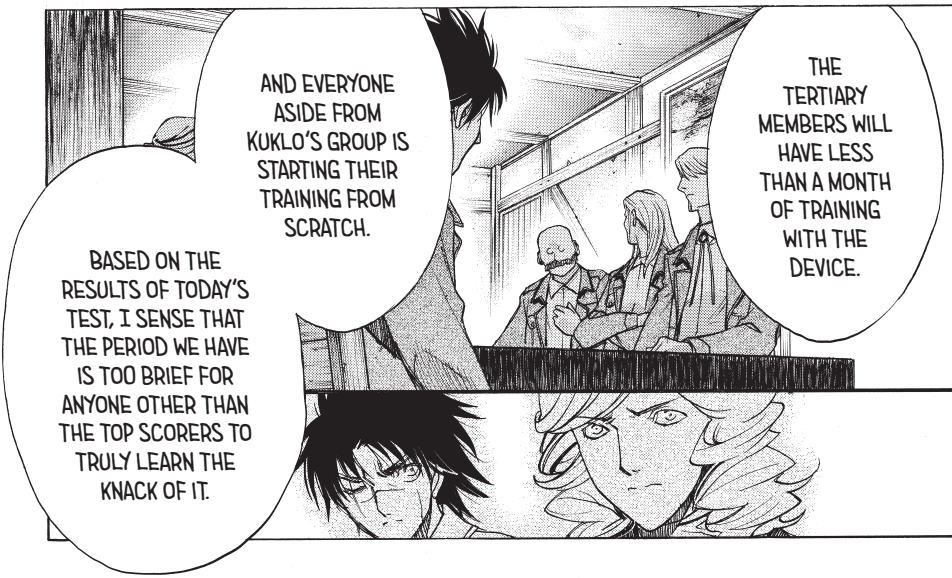

RIGHT.
THE SECONDARY SELECTION WILL COME FROM A RETEST NEXT WEEK.


SO WE CAN CERTAINLY PICK THESE FIVE FOR OUR FIRST SELECTION.

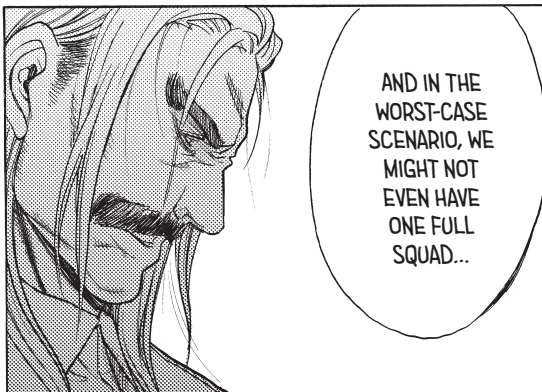

IN TERMS OF PUTTING TOGETHER A TEAM FOR THE EXPEDITION IN TWO MONTHS, AND THE TRAINING PERIOD WE'LL HAVE, THREE WAVES OF MEMBERS SOUNDS RIGHT.
...SO WE'LL CHOOSE SUBSEQUENT MEMBERS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
WE CAN ONLY MAKE FIVE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT SETS IN SEVEN TO TEN DAYS...


THAT MIGHT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC AN EXPECTATION.

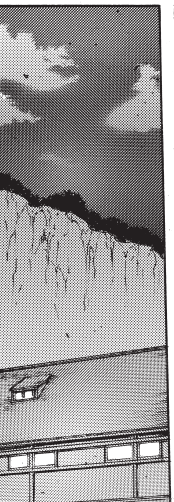
WHICH WOULD MAKE 15...
A BEST-CASE SCENARIO OF THREE SQUADS...

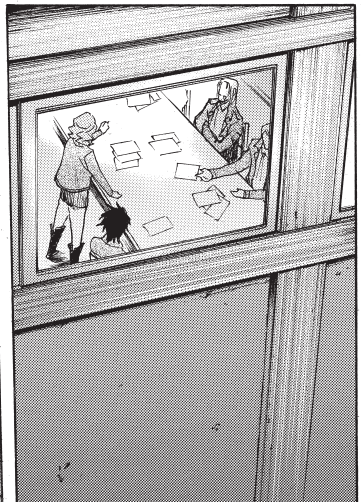

AND EVERYONE ASIDE FROM KUKLO'S GROUP IS STARTING THEIR TRAINING FROM SCRATCH.
THE TERTIARY MEMBERS WILL HAVE LESS THAN A MONTH OF TRAINING WITH THE DEVICE.
BASED ON THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S TEST, I SENSE THAT THE PERIOD WE HAVE IS TOO BRIEF FOR ANYONE OTHER THAN THE TOP SCORERS TO TRULY LEARN THE KNACK OF IT.

NO.

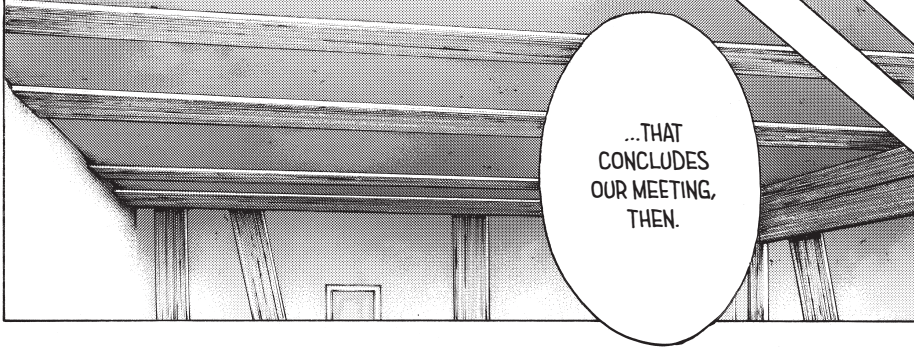

AND IN THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO, WE MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE ONE FULL SQUAD...

WE MUST PROCEED WITH THE BELIEF THAT EVEN OUR TERTIARY SQUAD WILL HAVE MASTERED THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT!





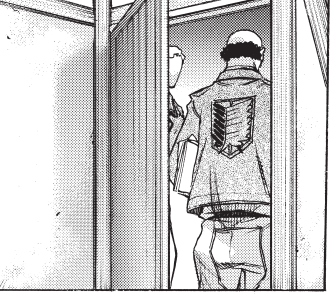
IN THAT CASE, I HAVE AN IDEA...

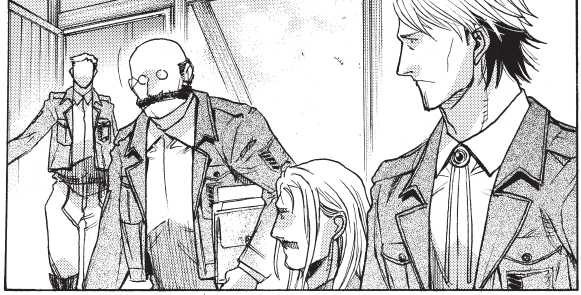

...THAT CONCLUDES OUR MEETING, THEN.

YES?
CAPTAIN.

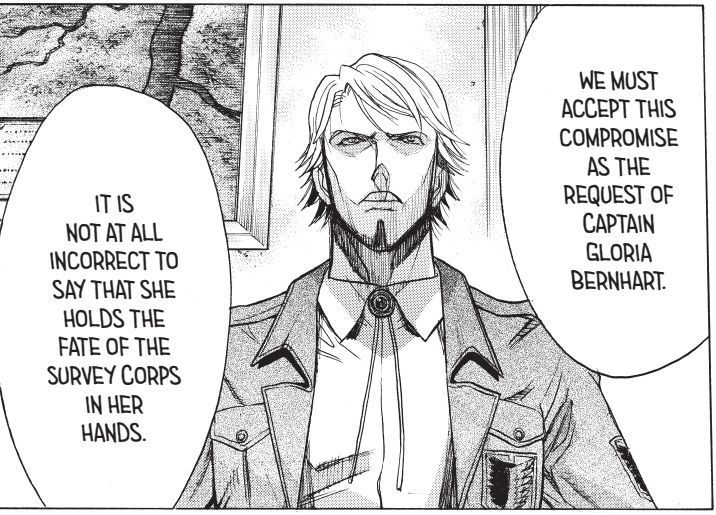
YES.
ABOUT HIM COMING ALONG ON OUR EXPEDI-TION?

?
DO YOU MIND IF I ASK A QUESTION ABOUT XAVI INOCENCIO?

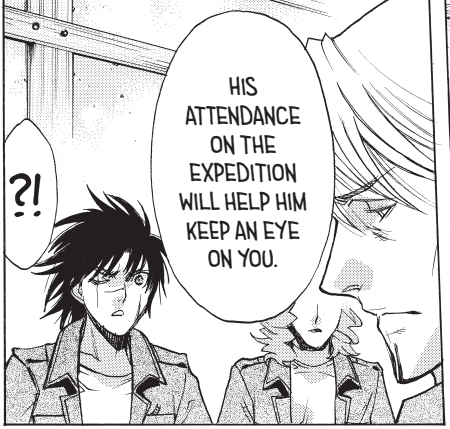




KHUMP
ドーン


IT IS NOT AT ALL INCORRECT TO SAY THAT SHE HOLDS THE FATE OF THE SURVEY CORPS IN HER HANDS.
WE MUST ACCEPT THIS COMPROMISE AS THE REQUEST OF CAPTAIN GLORIA BERNHART.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE DECREE AGAINST YOU DEFEATING A TITAN SINGLEHANDED, KUKLO?


?!
HIS ATTENDANCE ON THE EXPEDITION WILL HELP HIM KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.

I HEARD IT... FROM XAVI HIMSELF THIS MORNING.

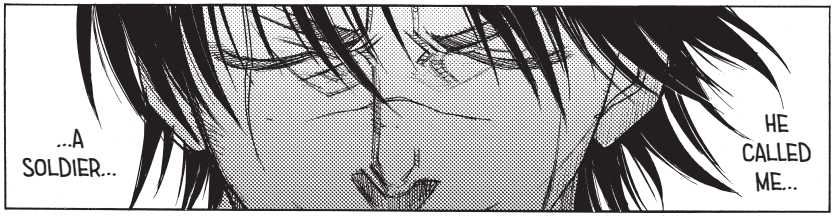
Y... YOU MEAN...
...I'M ALLOWED TO GO ON THE EXPEDITION ?!
KATHUMP

OF COURSE YOU ARE!
WERE YOU REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THAT?

HEH HEH HEH...

WHY WOULD WE NOT HAVE YOU ALONG?
YOU'RE THE ONE SOLDIER WITH THE MOST MASTERY OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT!

SOLDIER...


HE CALLED ME...
...A SOLDIER...

B-BUT XAVI...
JUST FOCUS ON SUPPORTING OUR NEW RECRUITS.

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN FORBIDDEN FROM EQUIPPING THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT, HAVE YOU?

OH, I SEE.

SO AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT THE ONE FINISHING OFF THE TITAN, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

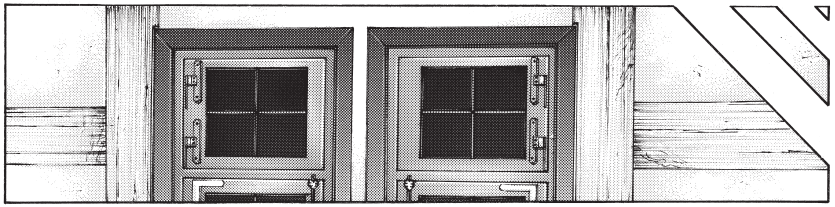
EXACTLY.

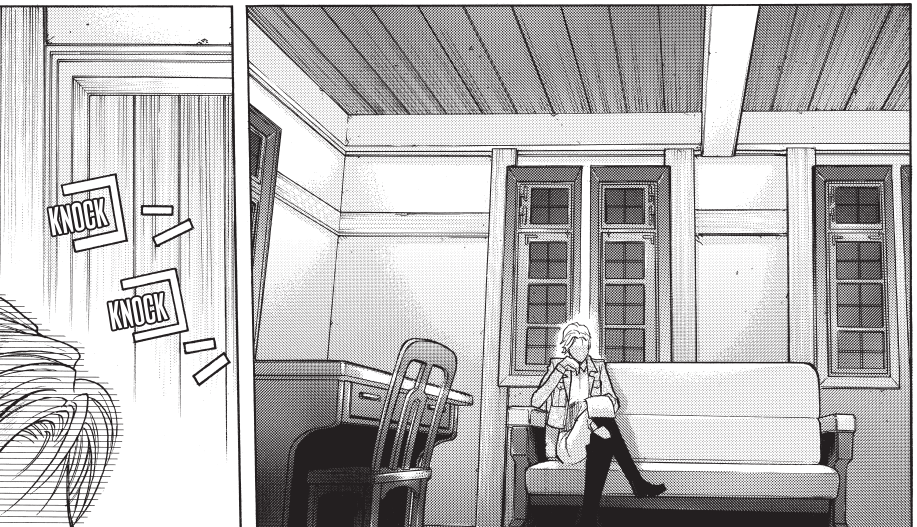
BUT IF YOU FEEL THAT THE RECRUITS' LIVES ARE IN DANGER, I DON'T WANT YOU WORRYING ABOUT WHAT XAVI THINKS.

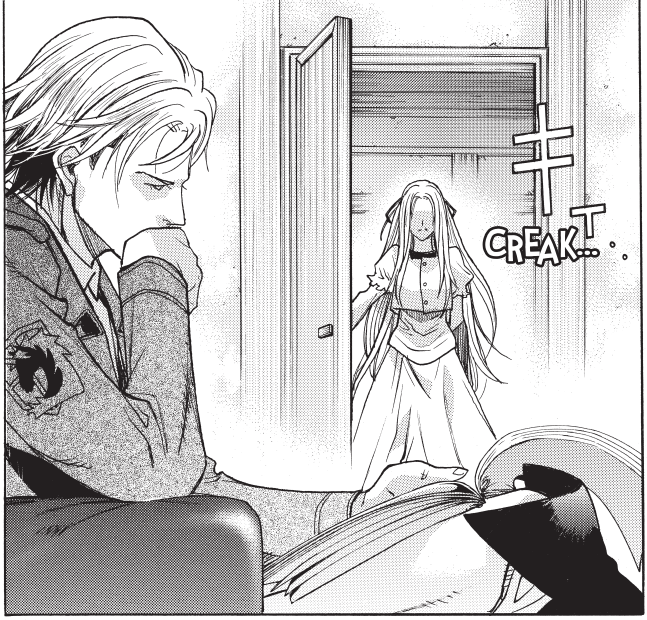
JUST DO WHATEVER YOU FEEL IS RIGHT!

TH...

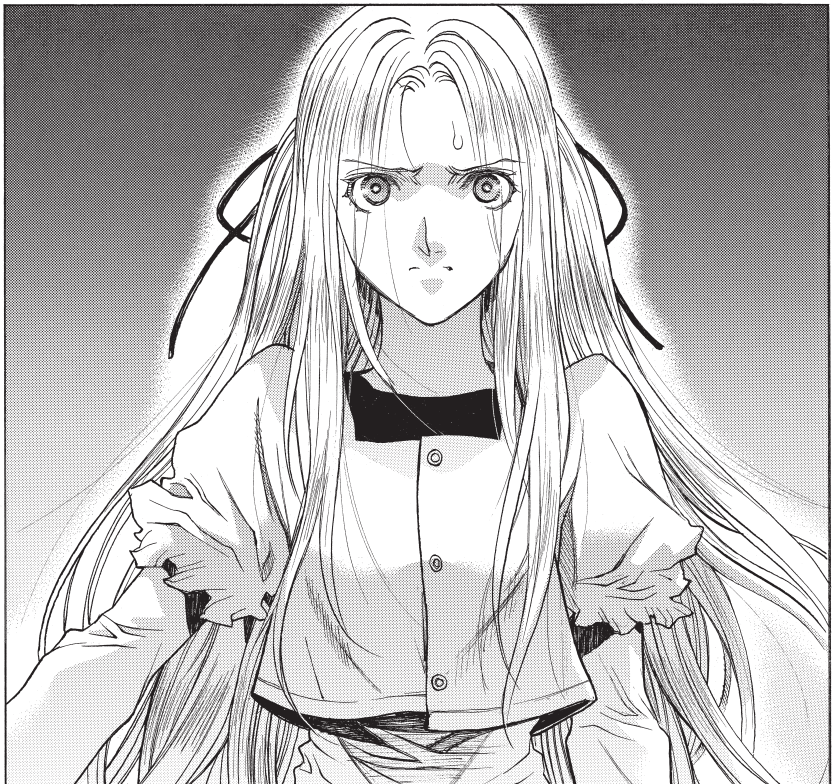
THANK YOU! I WILL!!




KNOCK
KNOCK


CREAK...

COME IN.

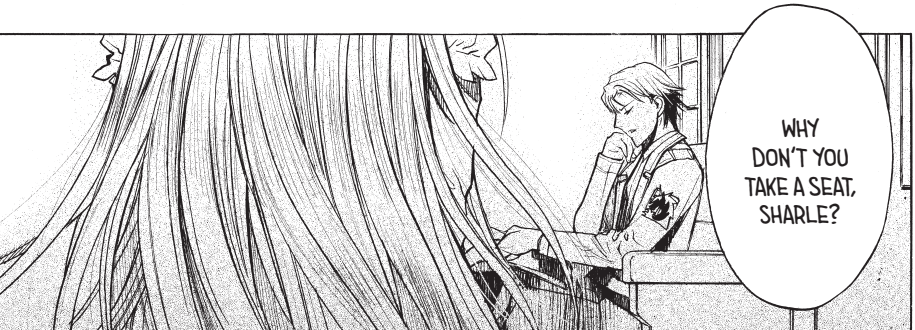


Chapter 47: Harbinger of Upheaval · End

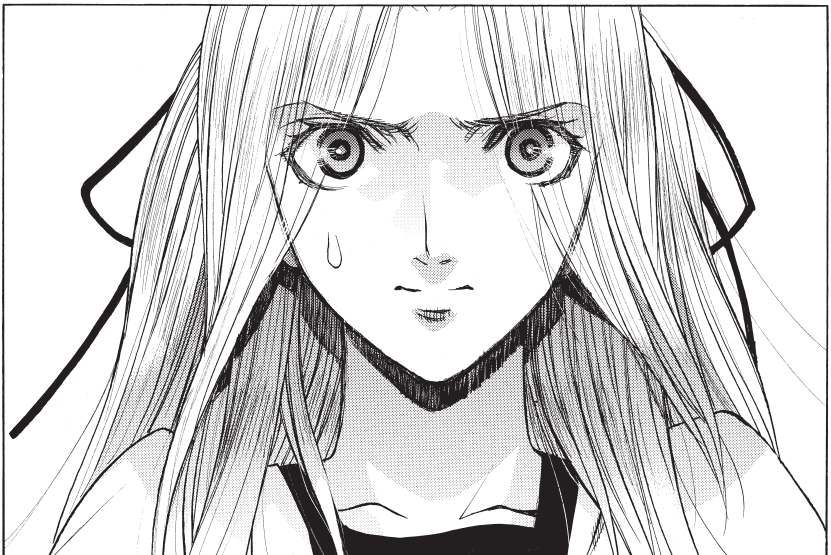
ATTACK ON TITAN

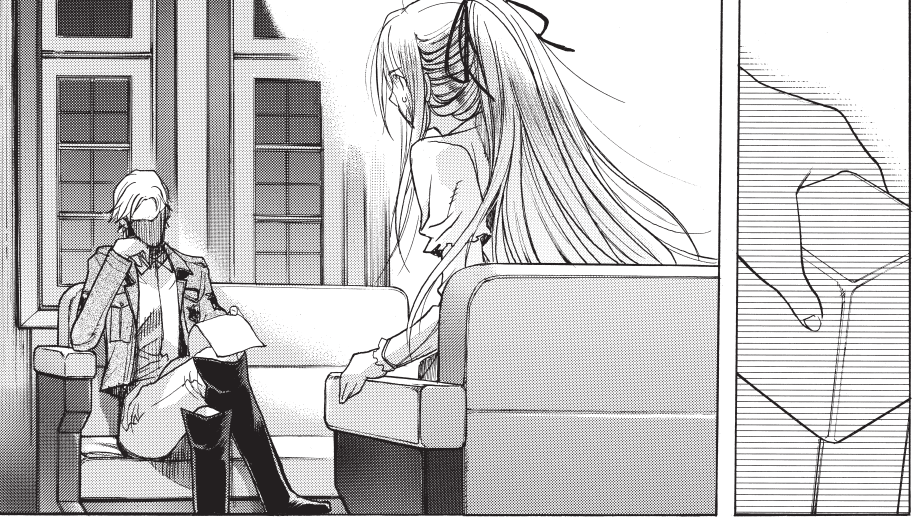
BEFORE THE FALL

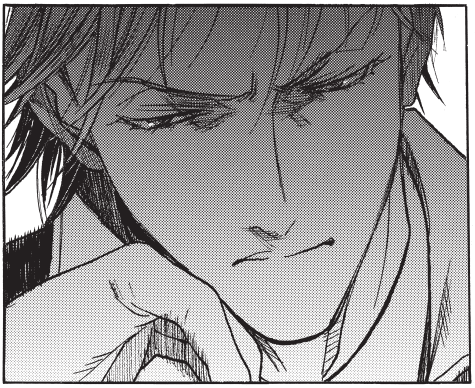
SIGH...

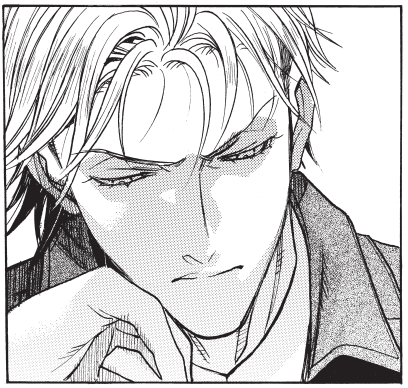

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A SEAT, SHARLE?

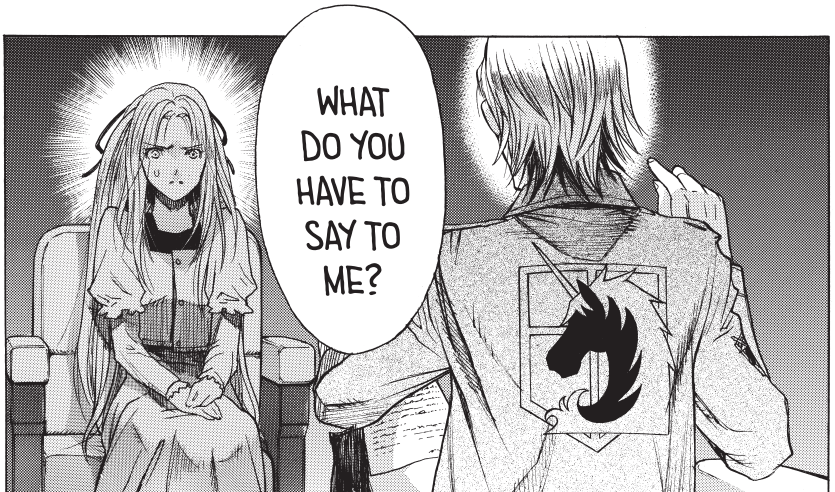
Chapter 48: The Reason I Fight



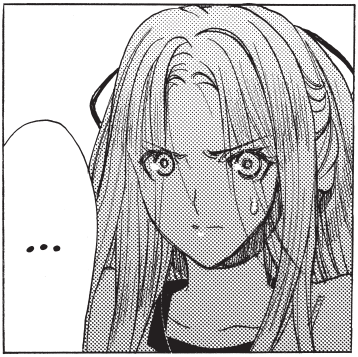


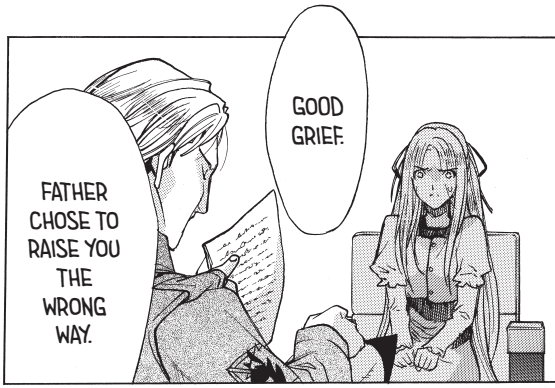




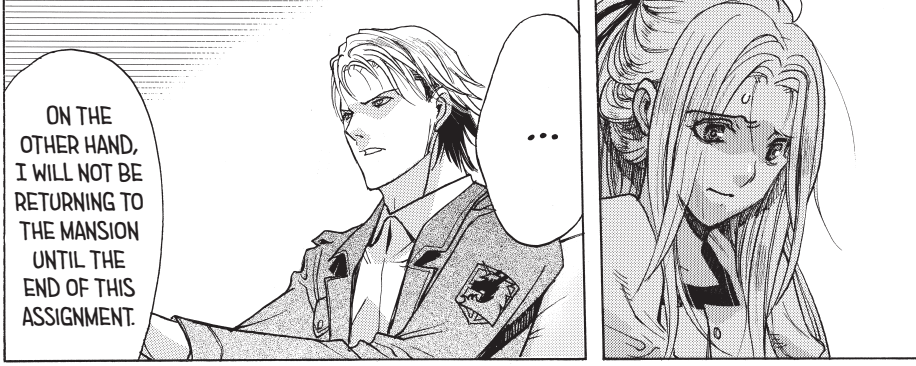

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO ME?

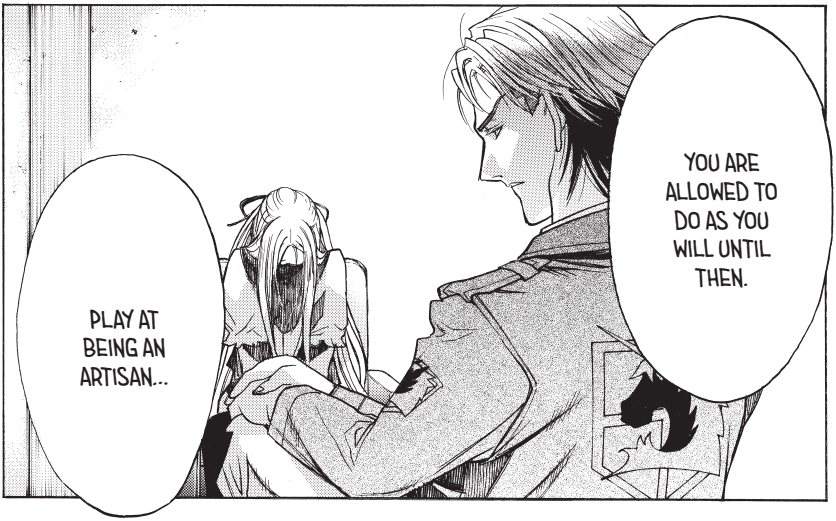
I'M NOT GOING BACK HOME!

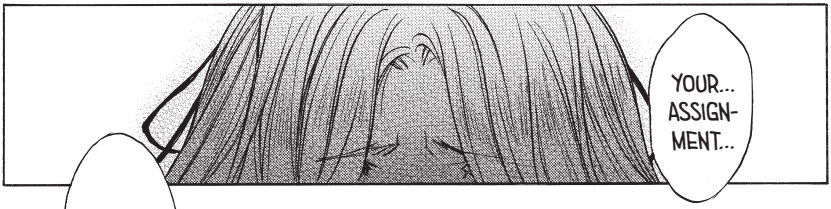


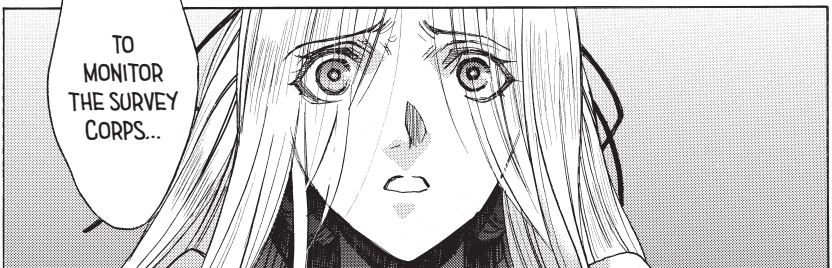


BECAUSE OF THE INOCENCIO TRADING COMPANY!
AND THAT MEANS THAT, LIKE FATHER, I HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT THE COMPANY AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF ITS EMPLOYEES.
I MAY MERELY HAVE INHERITED THE BUSINESS, BUT MY AFFILIATION WITH THE MILITARY POLICE IS A TOOL TO MAKE CONNECTIONS THAT WILL FURTHER THOSE ENDS.
YOU HAVE NO VALID EXCUSE FOR ABANDONING THIS DUTY OF THE INOCENCIO FAMILY!
...


ON THE OTHER HAND, I WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO THE MANSION UNTIL THE END OF THIS ASSIGNMENT.
...

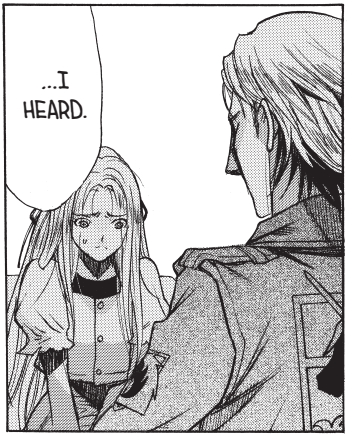

YOU ARE ALLOWED TO DO AS YOU WILL UNTIL THEN.
PLAY AT BEING AN ARTISAN...

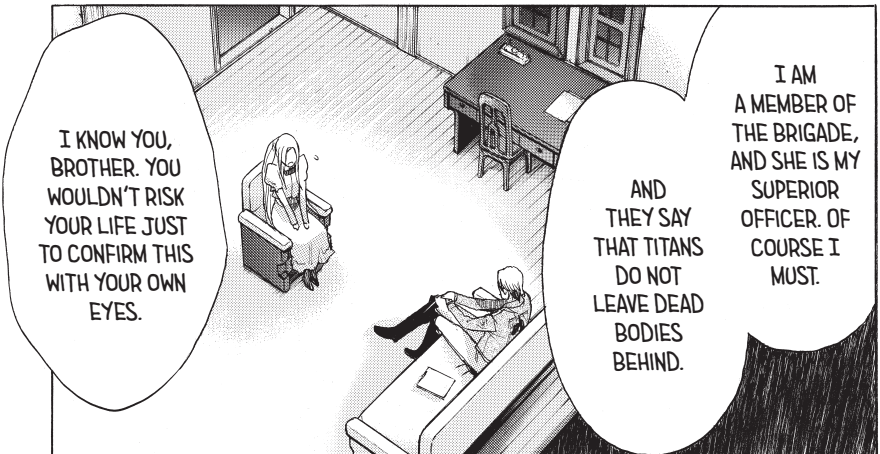

YOUR... ASSIGN-MENT...


TO MONITOR THE SURVEY CORPS...

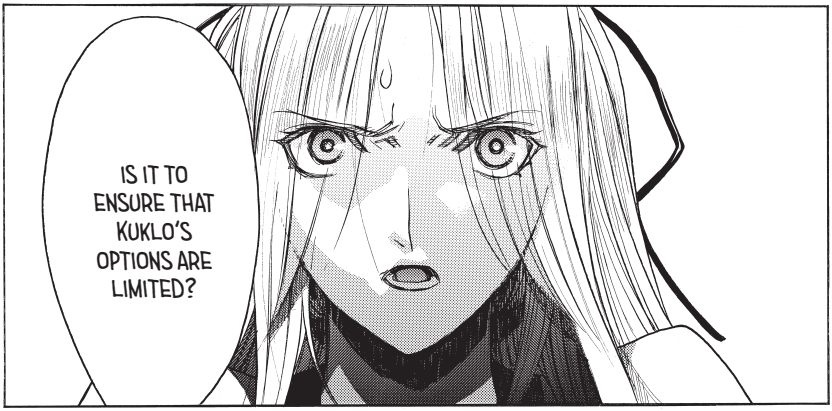
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND I WILL TAKE PART IN THE EXPEDITION BEYOND THE WALL IN TWO MONTHS.

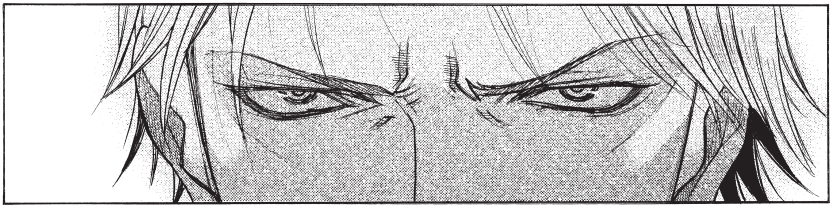
BUT WHAT IS THE REASON FOR YOU TO EXPOSE YOURSELF TO SUCH DANGER?
BECAUSE IT'S ON GLORIA'S ORDERS ?!

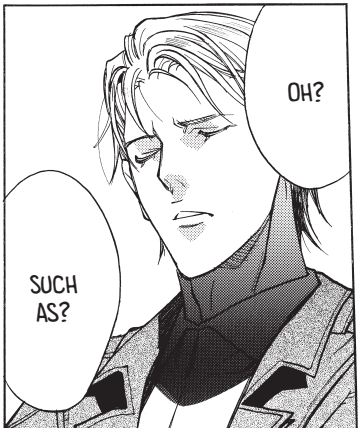

...I HEARD.

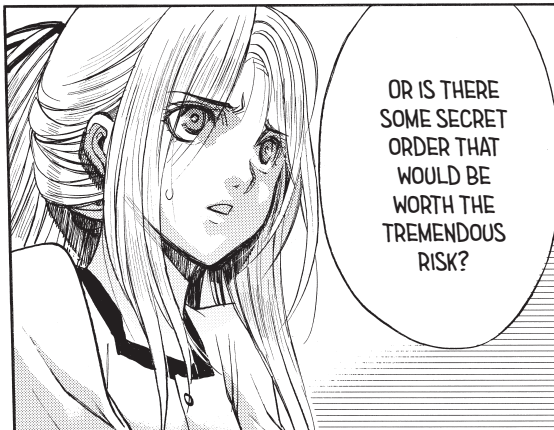

I AM A MEMBER OF THE BRIGADE, AND SHE IS MY SUPERIOR OFFICER. OF COURSE I MUST.
AND THEY SAY THAT TITANS DO NOT LEAVE DEAD BODIES BEHIND.
I KNOW YOU, BROTHER. YOU WOULDN'T RISK YOUR LIFE JUST TO CONFIRM THIS WITH YOUR OWN EYES.

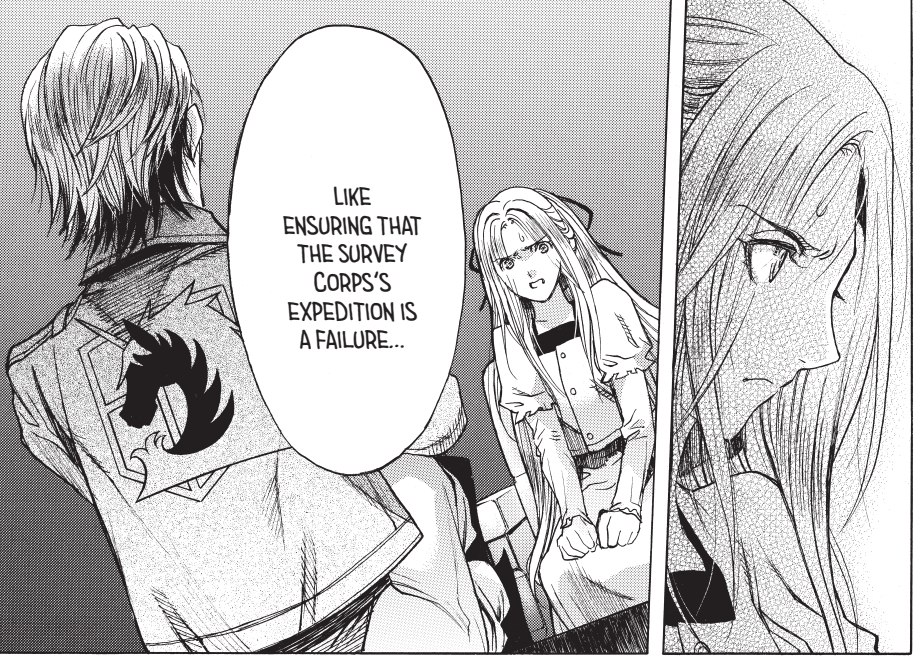
YOU'RE OVER-STEPPING YOUR BOUNDS, SHARLE.
WHAT IS IT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY ?

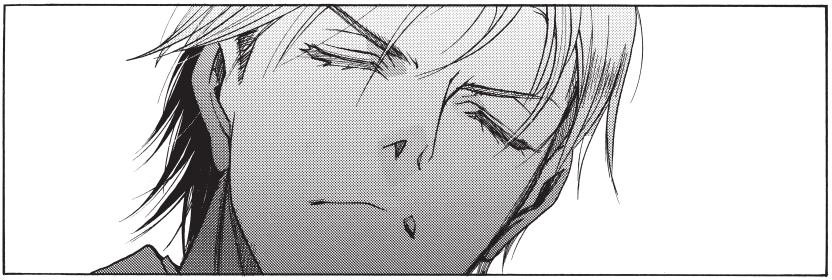

IS IT TO ENSURE THAT KUKLO'S OPTIONS ARE LIMITED?



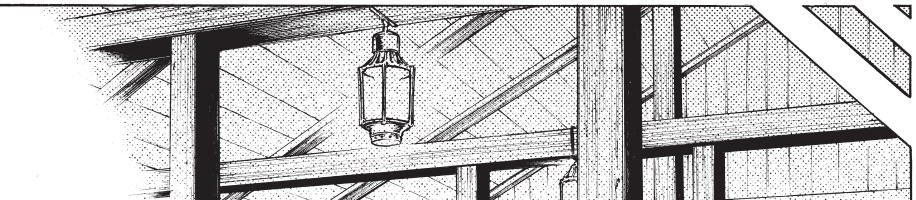

OH?
SUCH AS?


OR IS THERE SOME SECRET ORDER THAT WOULD BE WORTH THE TREMENDOUS RISK?

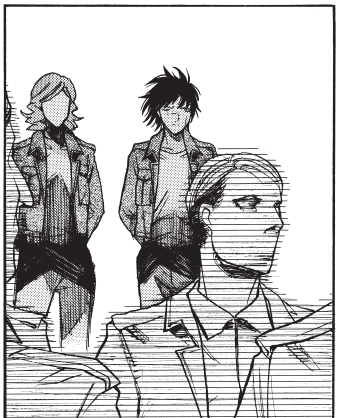

LIKE ENSURING THAT THE SURVEY CORPS'S EXPEDITION IS A FAILURE...



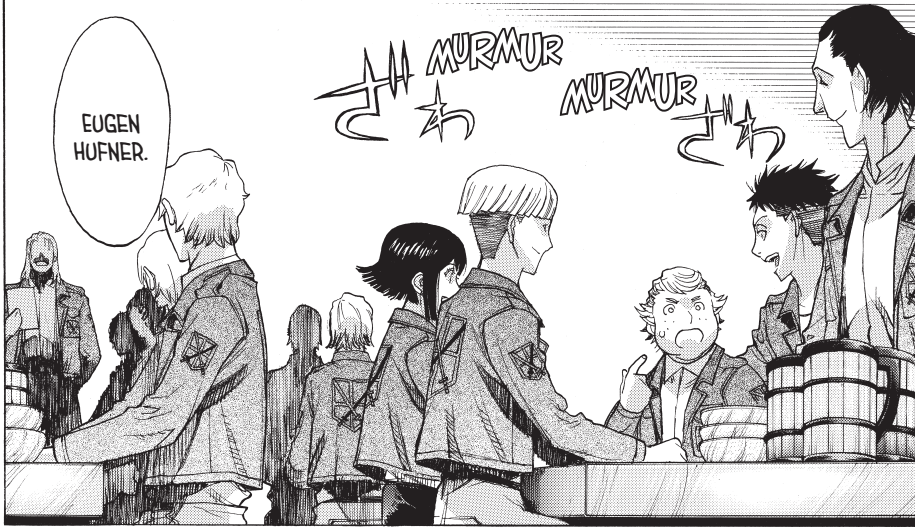
HEH!

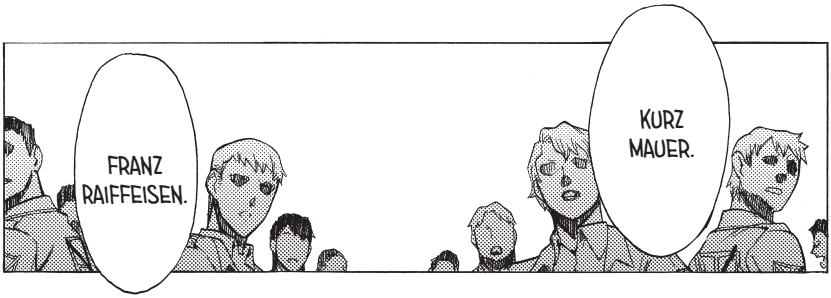


AS YOU WERE. PLEASE HEAR ME OUT.

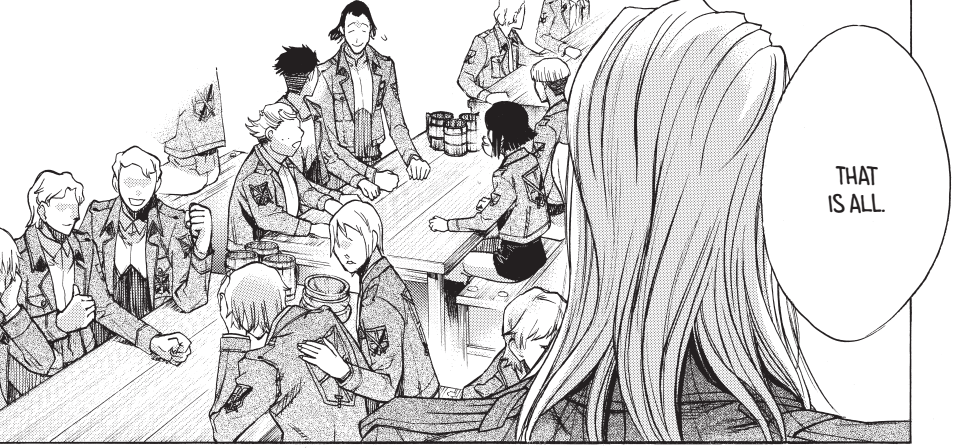


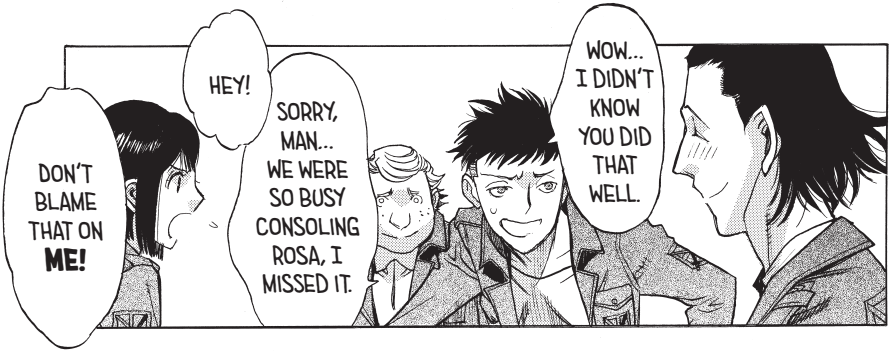
BASED ON THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S TEST...
...THE FOLLOWING FIVE OF YOU WILL BE PLACED IN THE SPECIAL TRAINING CLASS FOR THE UPDATED DEVICE.
IVO HUMMEL.

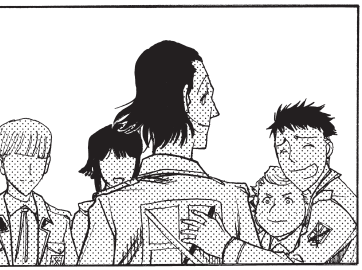

EUGEN HUFNER.
MURMUR
MURMUR

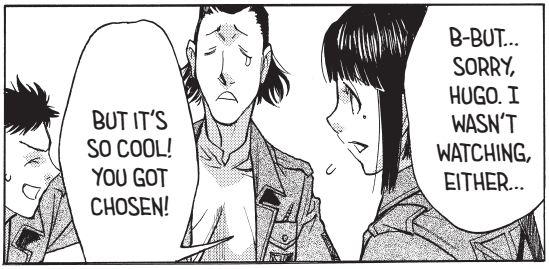

FRANZ RAIFFEISEN.
KURZ MAUER.

HUGO STEHLER.


THAT IS ALL.

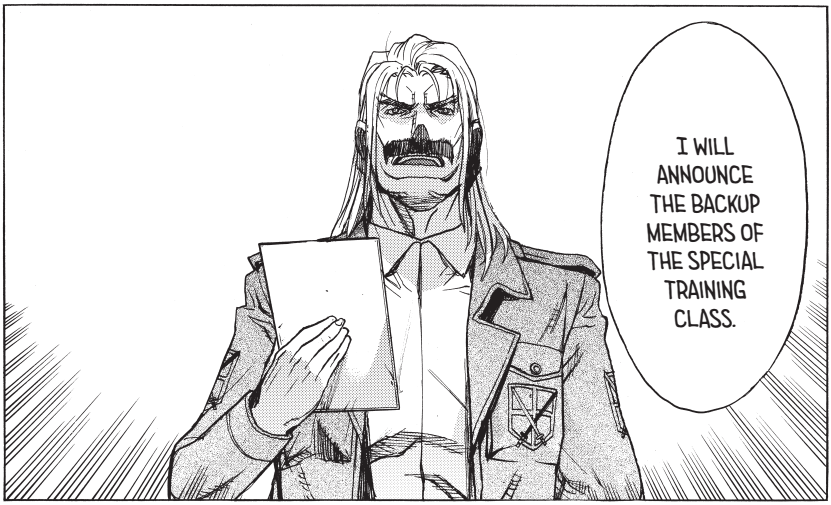

WOW... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU DID THAT WELL.
SORRY, MAN... WE WERE SO BUSY CONSOLING ROSA, I MISSED IT.
HEY!
DON'T BLAME THAT ON **ME!**

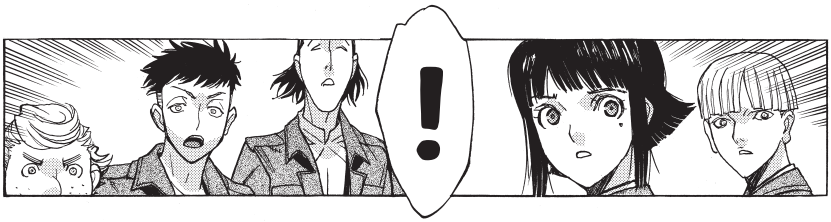



B-BUT... SORRY, HUGO. I WASN'T WATCHING, EITHER...
BUT IT'S SO COOL! YOU GOT CHOSEN!

ALL RIGHT, THEN... SO I FAILED...
I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN, BUT IT STILL STINGS TO RECEIVE THE RESULTS LIKE THAT.

NEXT...
I'VE GOT TO SHOW I CAN CATCH UP TO THEM!!
AT LEAST IVO AND HUGO GOT CHOSEN TO THAT ELITE FIVE-MAN TEAM! TWO OF OUR LITTLE GROUP!


I WILL ANNOUNCE THE BACKUP MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL TRAINING CLASS.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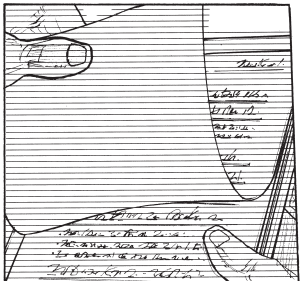
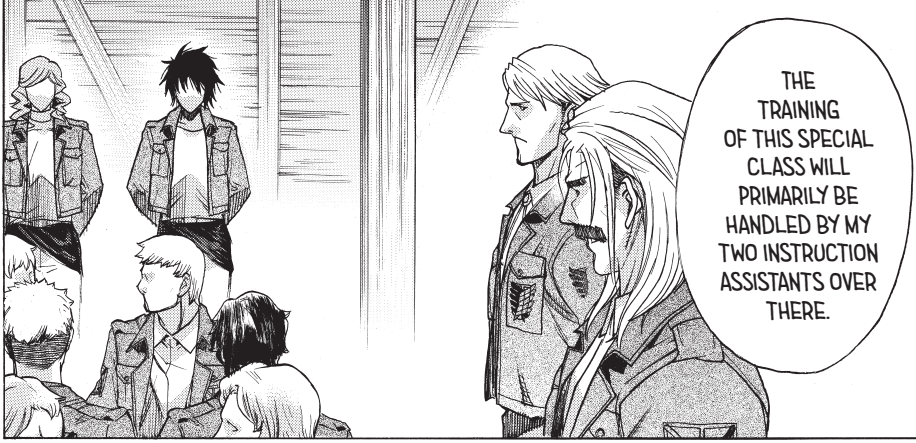
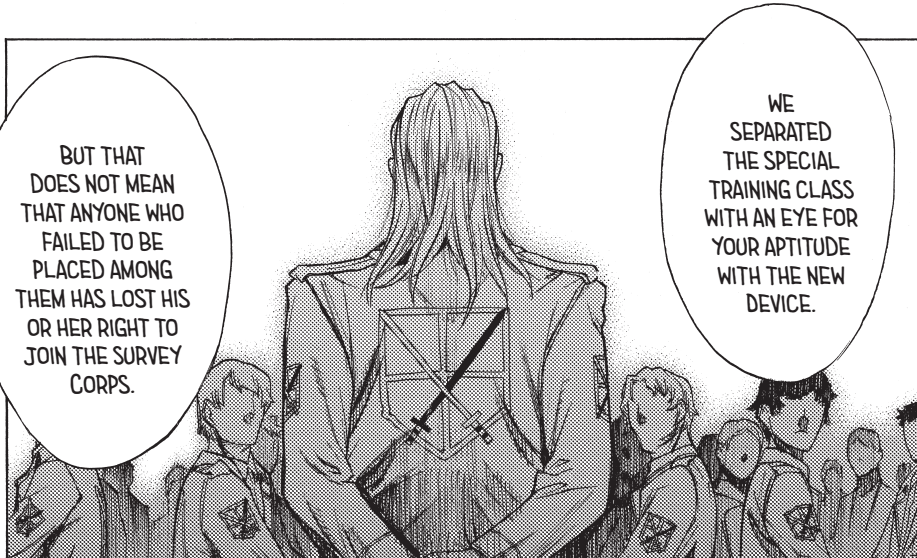


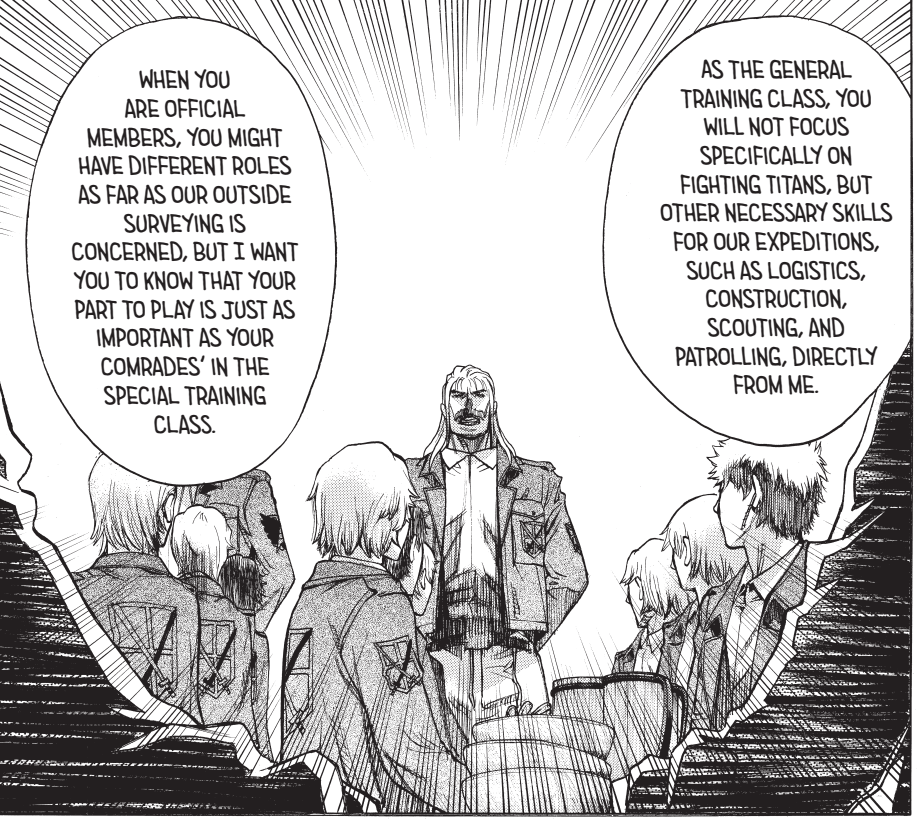
ざわ
MURMUR
---...
---...
---...
---...

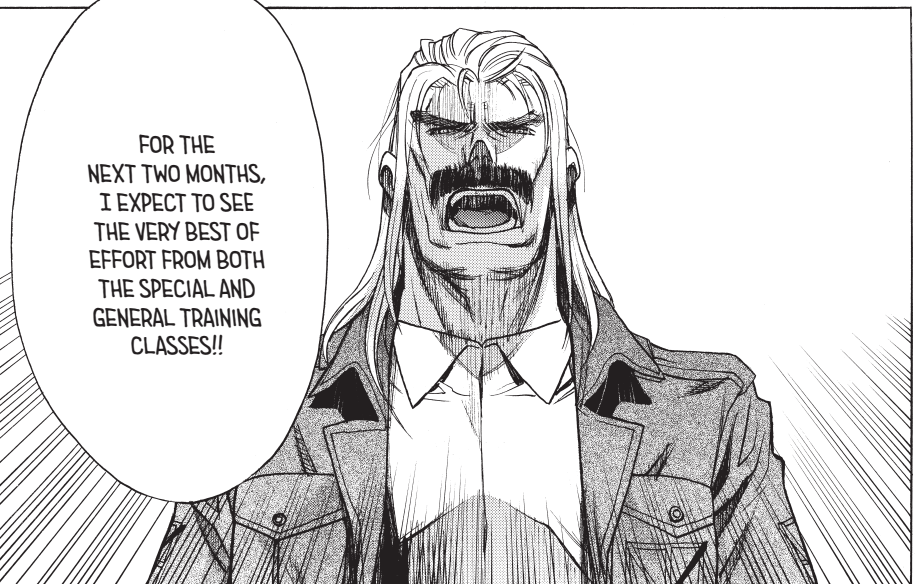
!
FELIX AUFRECHT.
KAI ZIMMER.
!
ROSA CARLSTEAD.
IN TEN DAYS, A SECONDARY TEAM WILL BE CHOSEN FROM YOUR RANKS, AND IN 20 DAYS, A TERTIARY TEAM.
THE 25 OF YOU WILL BE PLACED IN THE SPECIAL TRAINING CLASS AS BACKUP MEMBERS.


THE TRAINING OF THIS SPECIAL CLASS WILL PRIMARILY BE HANDLED BY MY TWO INSTRUCTION ASSISTANTS OVER THERE.

ZMF


WE SEPARATED THE SPECIAL TRAINING CLASS WITH AN EYE FOR YOUR APTITUDE WITH THE NEW DEVICE.
BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT ANYONE WHO FAILED TO BE PLACED AMONG THEM HAS LOST HIS OR HER RIGHT TO JOIN THE SURVEY CORPS.

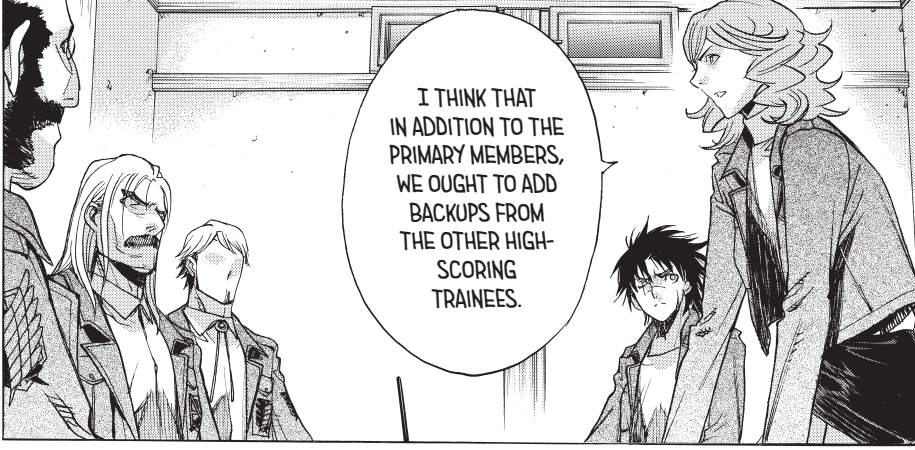

WHEN YOU ARE OFFICIAL MEMBERS, YOU MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT ROLES AS FAR AS OUR OUTSIDE SURVEYING IS CONCERNED, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR PART TO PLAY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR COMRADES' IN THE SPECIAL TRAINING CLASS.
AS THE GENERAL TRAINING CLASS, YOU WILL NOT FOCUS SPECIFICALLY ON FIGHTING TITANS, BUT OTHER NECESSARY SKILLS FOR OUR EXPEDITIONS, SUCH AS LOGISTICS, CONSTRUCTION, SCOUTING, AND PATROLLING, DIRECTLY FROM ME.

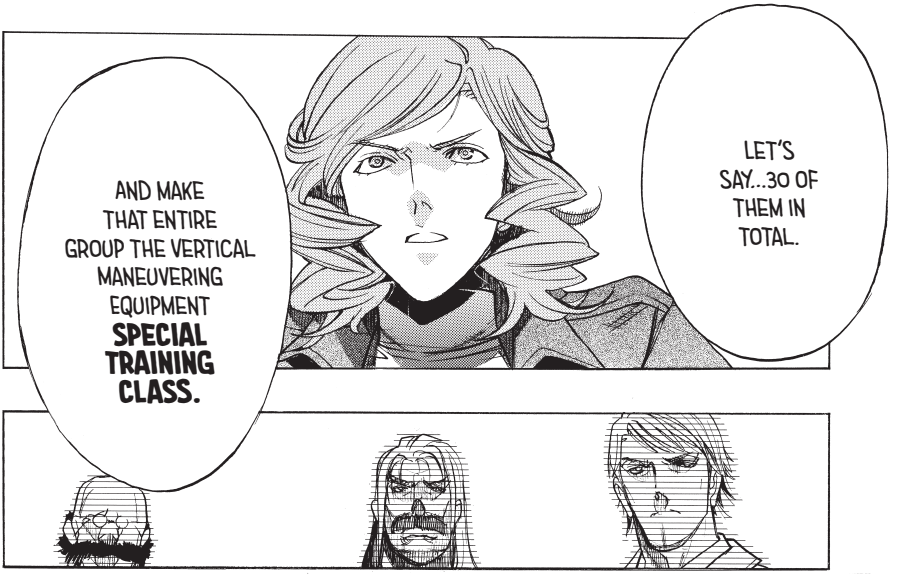

FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, I EXPECT TO SEE THE VERY BEST OF EFFORT FROM BOTH THE SPECIAL AND GENERAL TRAINING CLASSES!!

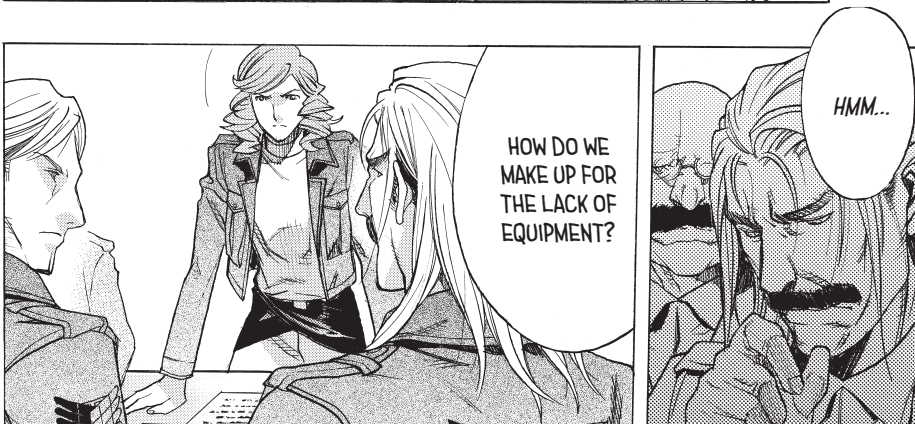
HUP

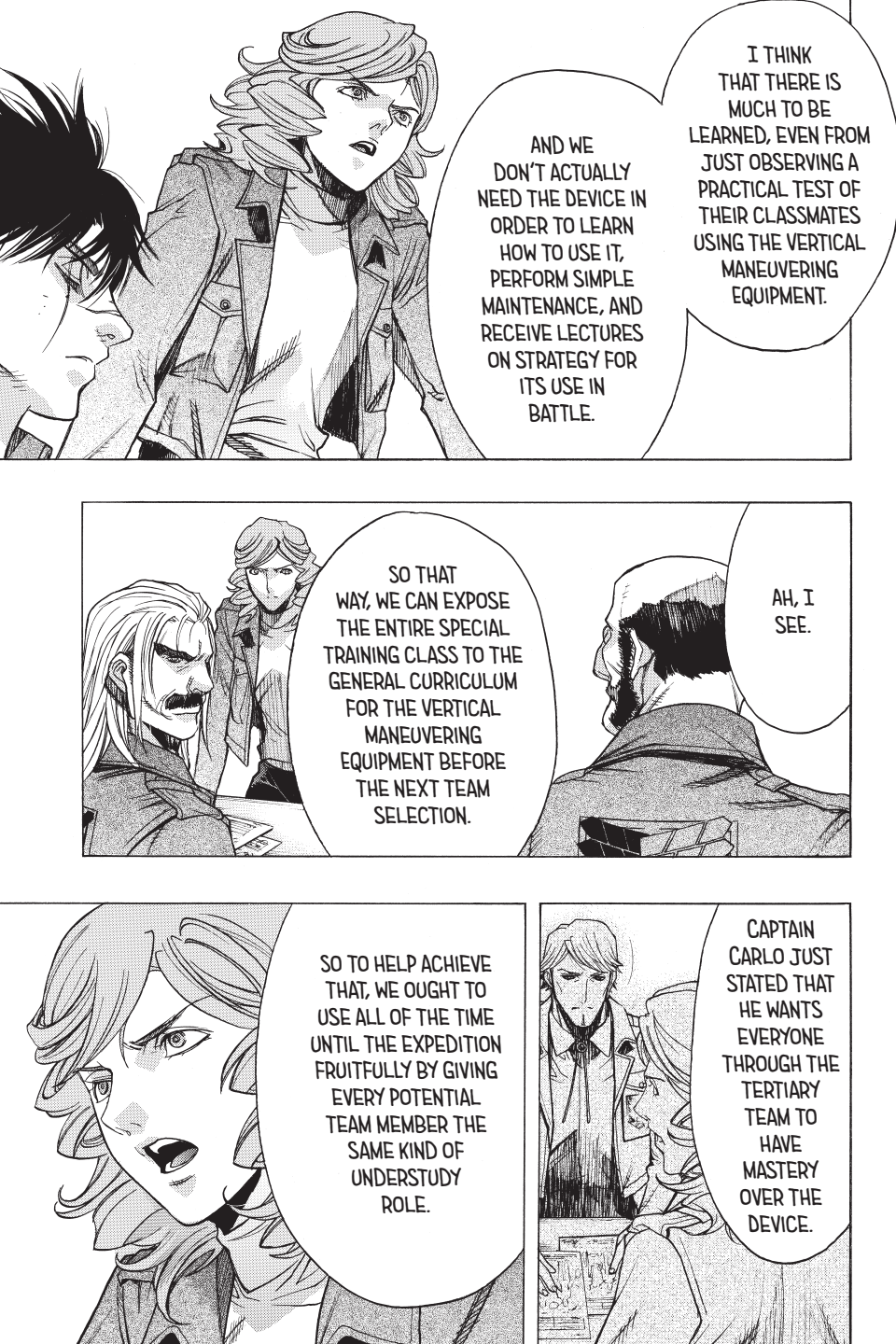
HUP
YES, SIR!!

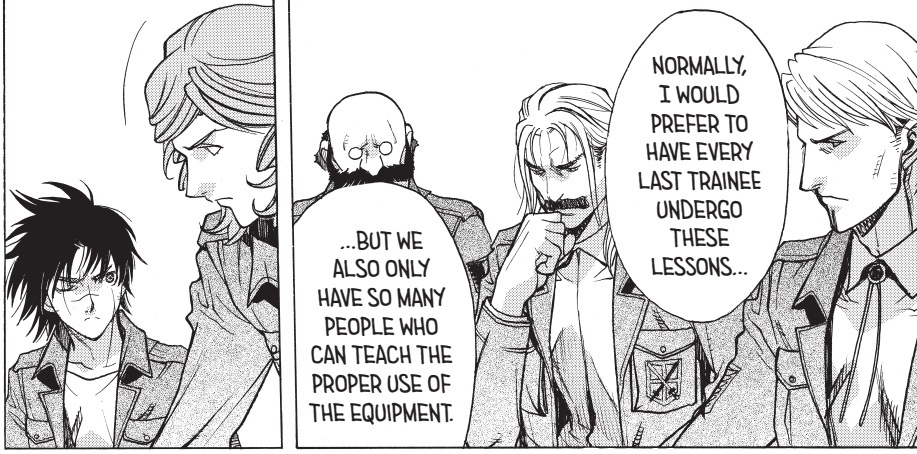
SEEING THEIR EXPRESSIONS TELLS ME THAT YOUR IDEA WAS THE RIGHT ONE.
I MERELY SUGGESTED WHAT SEEMED BEST.
IN THAT CASE, I HAVE AN IDEA...


I THINK THAT IN ADDITION TO THE PRIMARY MEMBERS, WE OUGHT TO ADD BACKUPS FROM THE OTHER HIGH-SCORING TRAINEES.

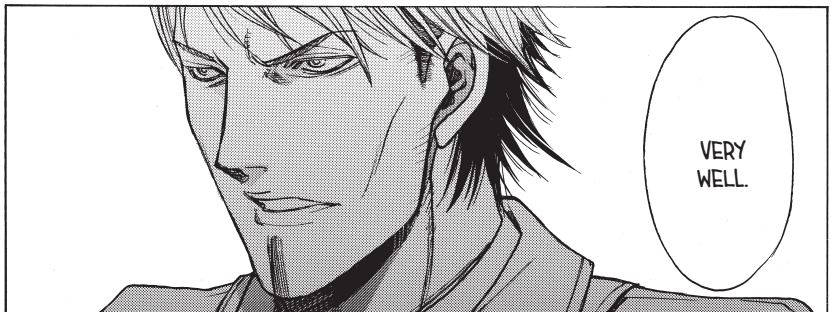

LET'S SAY...30 OF THEM IN TOTAL.
AND MAKE THAT ENTIRE GROUP THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT **SPECIAL TRAINING CLASS.**


HOW DO WE MAKE UP FOR THE LACK OF EQUIPMENT?
HMM...


AND WE DON'T ACTUALLY NEED THE DEVICE IN ORDER TO LEARN HOW TO USE IT, PERFORM SIMPLE MAINTENANCE, AND RECEIVE LECTURES ON STRATEGY FOR ITS USE IN BATTLE.
I THINK THAT THERE IS MUCH TO BE LEARNED, EVEN FROM JUST OBSERVING A PRACTICAL TEST OF THEIR CLASSMATES USING THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.
SO THAT WAY, WE CAN EXPOSE THE ENTIRE SPECIAL TRAINING CLASS TO THE GENERAL CURRICULUM FOR THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT BEFORE THE NEXT TEAM SELECTION.
AH, I SEE.
SO TO HELP ACHIEVE THAT, WE OUGHT TO USE ALL OF THE TIME UNTIL THE EXPEDITION FRUITFULLY BY GIVING EVERY POTENTIAL TEAM MEMBER THE SAME KIND OF UNDERSTUDY ROLE.
CAPTAIN CARLO JUST STATED THAT HE WANTS EVERYONE THROUGH THE TERTIARY TEAM TO HAVE MASTERY OVER THE DEVICE.


NORMALLY, I WOULD PREFER TO HAVE EVERY LAST TRAINEE UNDERGO THESE LESSONS...
...BUT WE ALSO ONLY HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN TEACH THE PROPER USE OF THE EQUIPMENT.

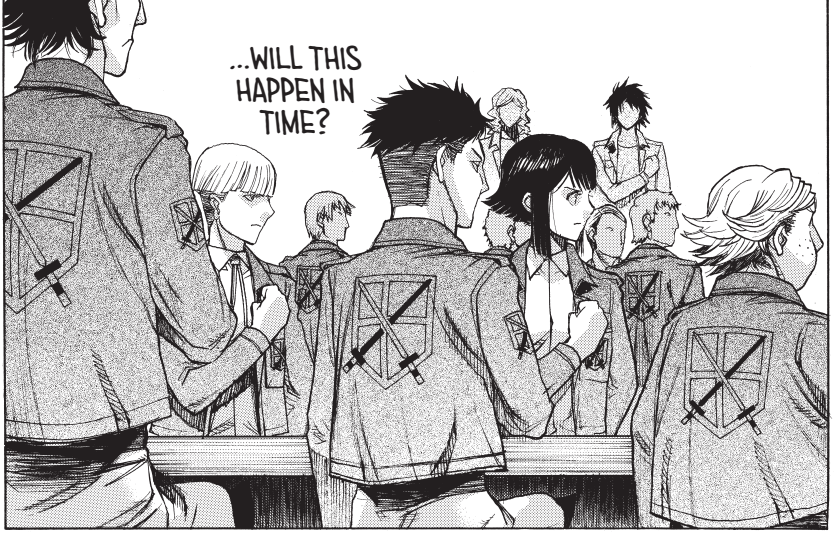
I'VE ESTIMATED THAT 30 IS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PUPILS THAT CAN BE TAUGHT THAT KNOWLEDGE UNDER THIS SET OF CIRCUM-STANCES.

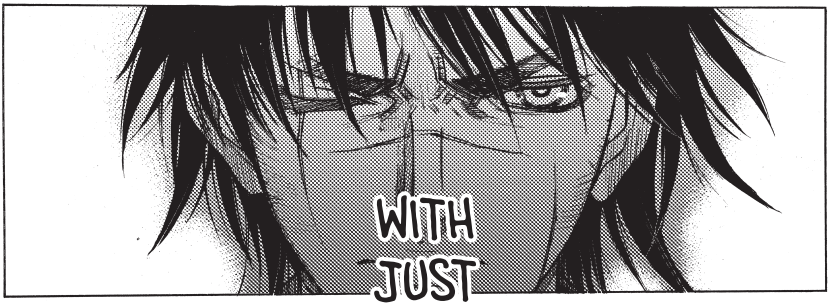

VERY WELL.

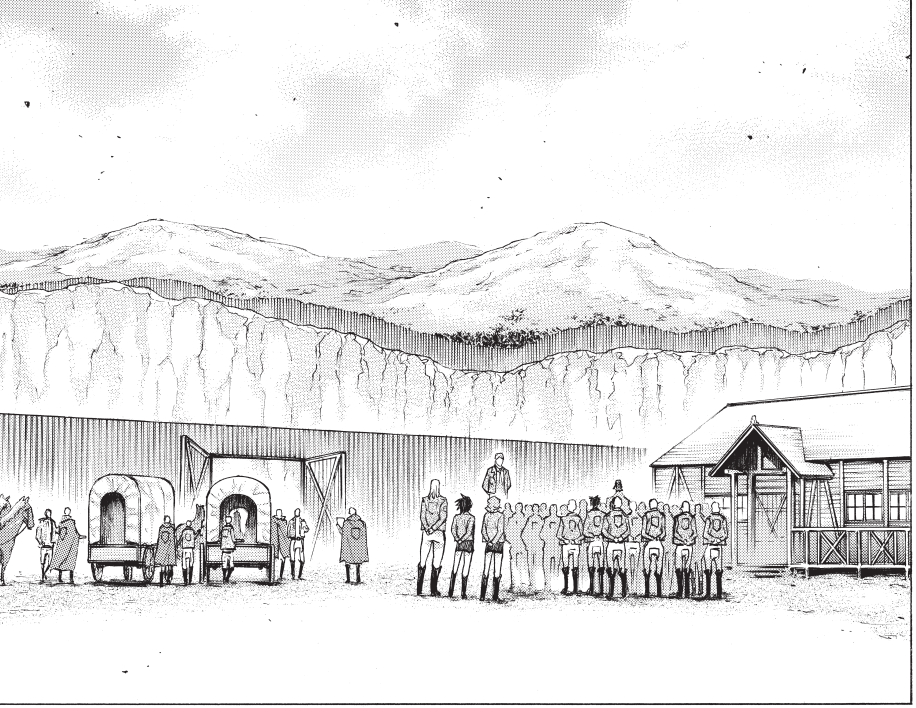
WE WILL GO WITH CARDINA'S PROPOSAL. ARE THERE ANY OBJECTIONS?

THE PROBLEM IS...

EVENTUALLY, THEY WILL PROVE WORTHY OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT.


...WILL THIS HAPPEN IN TIME?


WITH JUST TWO MONTHS TO GO...



THE ENTIRE SPECIAL TRAINING CLASS WILL BE TAKING A LITTLE TRIP!
THERE IS NO TRAINING ROUTINE TODAY!

QUESTION, SIR!

WHERE WILL WE BE GOING?!

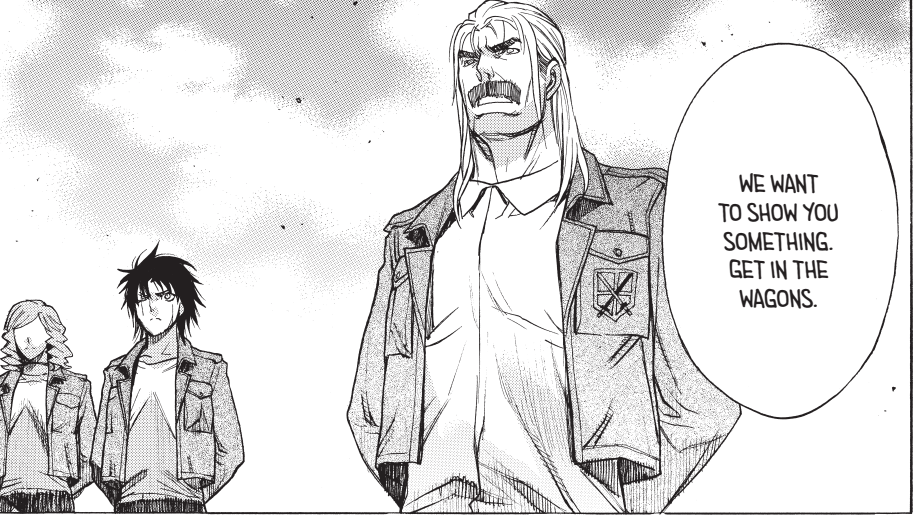
TO WALL MARIA.

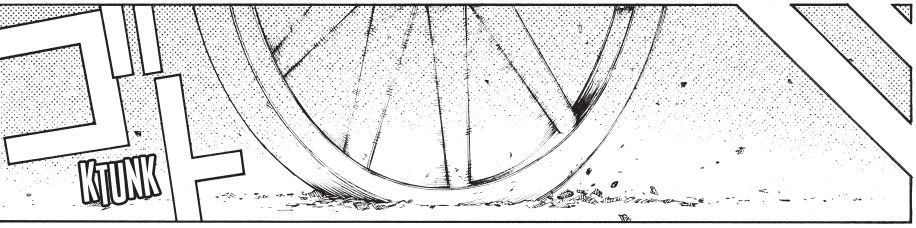
GLARE

WHISPER

WONDER IF WE'RE RUNNING AN ERRAND.

WHISPER


WE WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING. GET IN THE WAGONS.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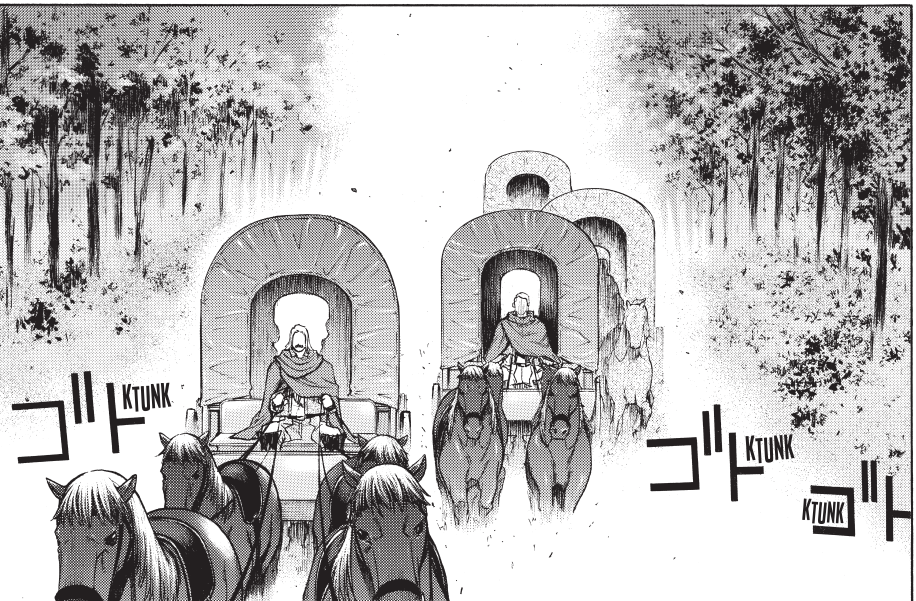
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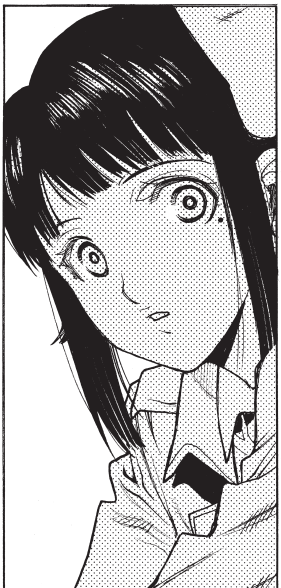

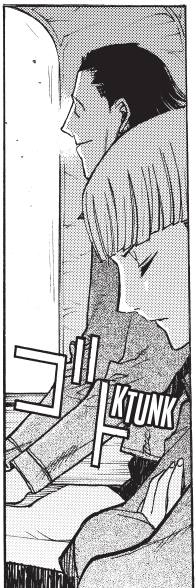

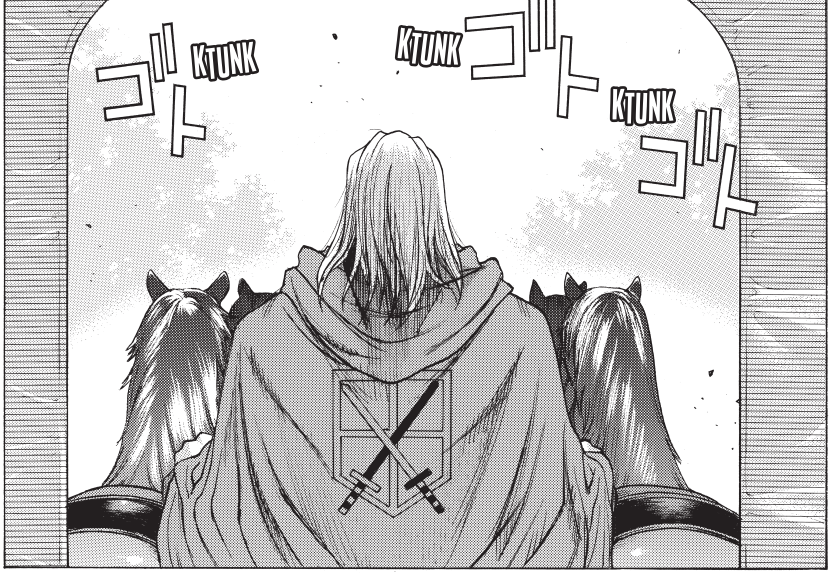
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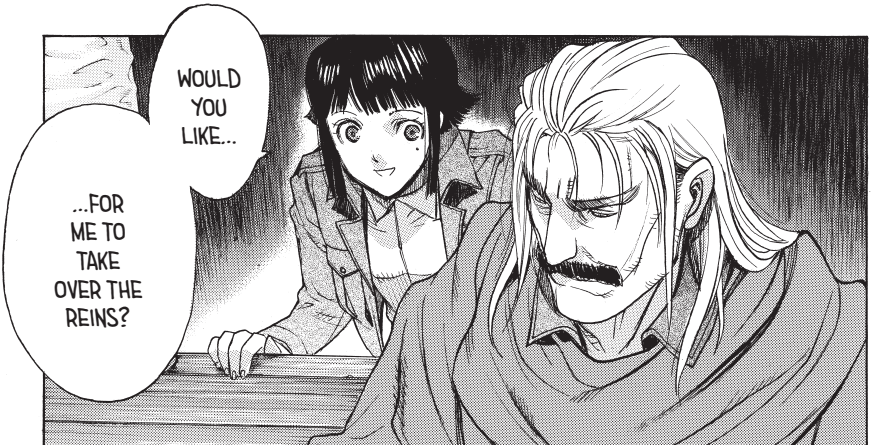
WOULD
YOU
LIKE...
...FOR
ME TO
TAKE
OVER THE
REINS?

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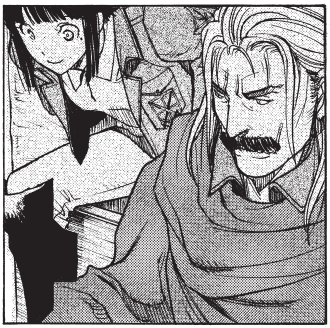
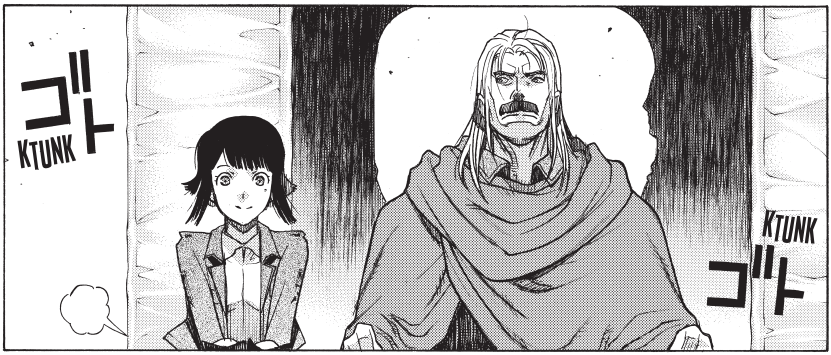
ゴト KTUNK
DON'T MIND ME. IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAT YOU GET YOUR REST.



TRUST ME, I'M FINE!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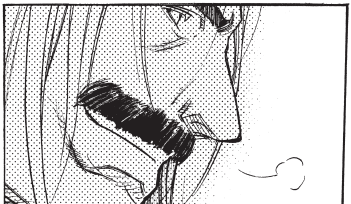
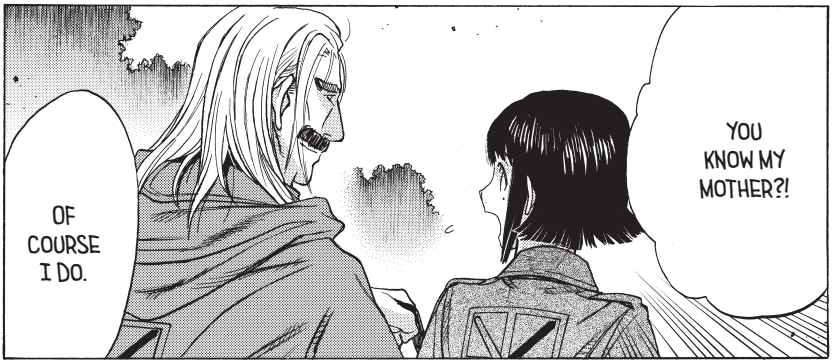
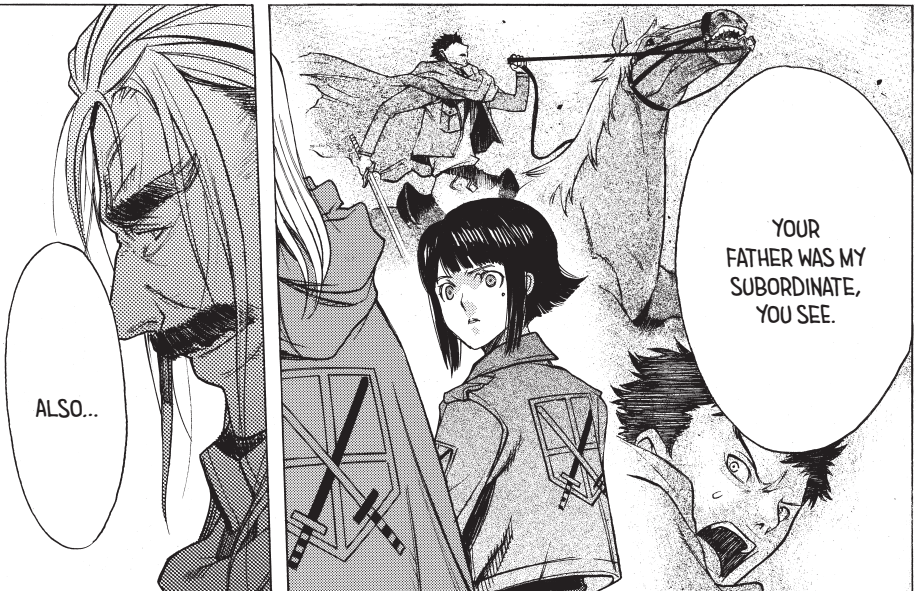
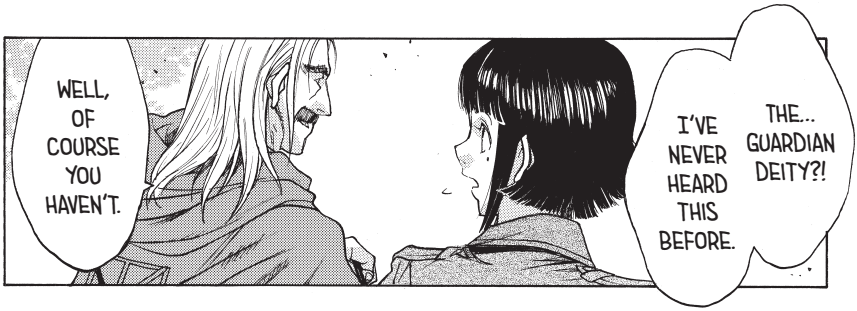


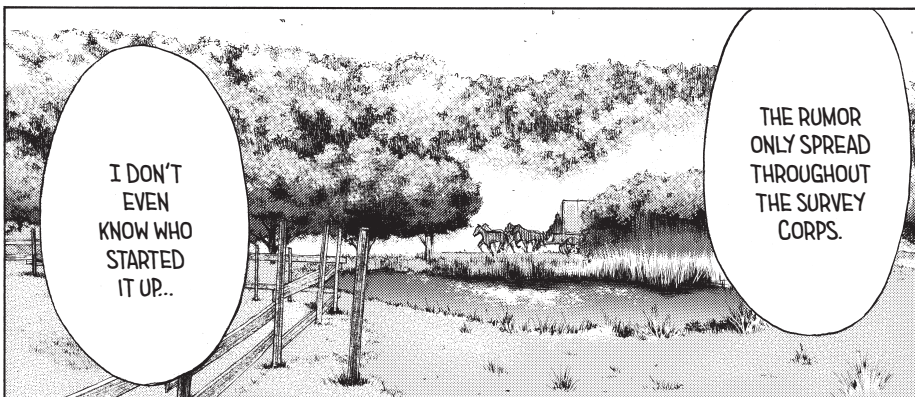
KTUNK
THE WAY YOU LOOK OUT FOR OTHERS IS JUST LIKE HER.
!
KTUNK
YOU MUST'VE TAKEN AFTER MARIA.

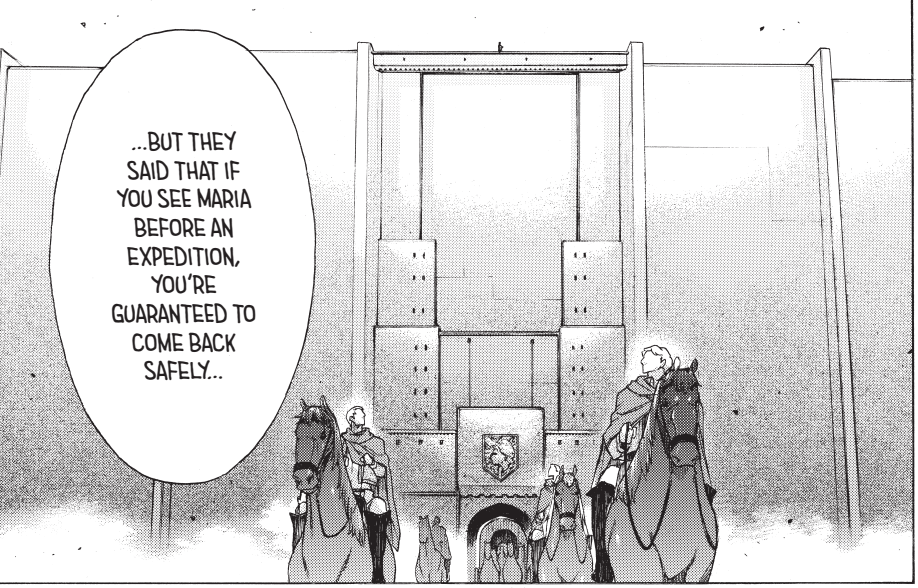

OF COURSE I DO.
YOU KNOW MY MOTHER?!

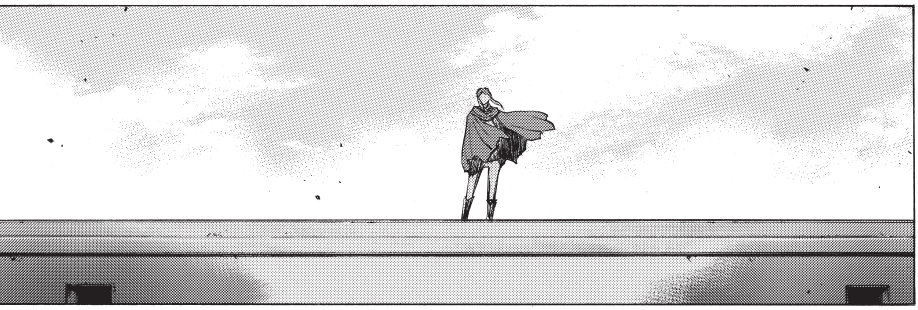

ALSO...
YOUR FATHER WAS MY SUBORDINATE, YOU SEE.

...MARIA WAS KNOWN AS THE "GUARDIAN DEITY OF WALL MARIA."


THE... GUARDIAN DEITY?!
I'VE NEVER HEARD THIS BEFORE.
WELL, OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T.


THE RUMOR ONLY SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE SURVEY CORPS.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO STARTED IT UP...

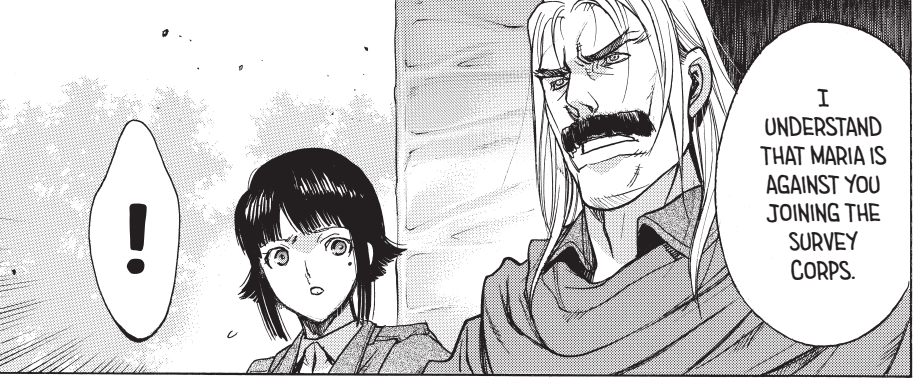

...BUT THEY SAID THAT IF YOU SEE MARIA BEFORE AN EXPEDITION, YOU'RE GUARANTEED TO COME BACK SAFELY...

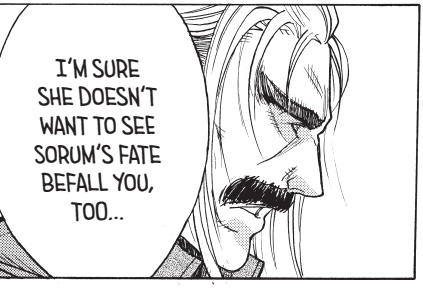


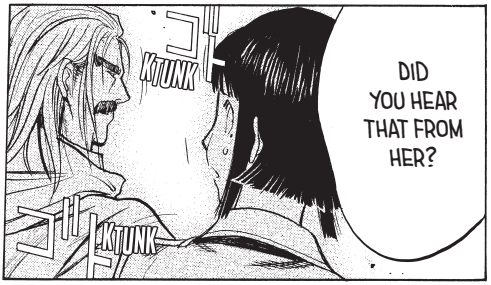
A GARRISON SOLDIER NAMED "MARIA" AT WALL MARIA...
AND SHE'S YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL TO BOOT? WELL, YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW THAT COMBINATION WOULD MAKE PEOPLE SEE A DEEPER MEANING IN HER.

WHAT...?
ゴト KTUNK
ゴト KTUNK

THEY ALL KNEW IT WAS JUST AN IDLE BIT OF SUPERSTITION, OF COURSE...
...BUT STILL, THERE WAS NO END TO THE SURVEYORS WITH SWORDS AT THE READY WHO SOUGHT HER FIGURE ATOP THE WALL.
THAT IS A SIGN OF HOW DANGEROUS THE WORLD BEYOND THE WALLS IS.
IT'S IRONIC THAT MY FATHER, HER BETROTHED, DIED ON THE EXPEDITION...
...AND YET THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP RETURNED ALIVE...
THE GUARDIAN DEITY...
CLENCH


I UNDERSTAND THAT MARIA IS AGAINST YOU JOINING THE SURVEY CORPS.
!


I'M SURE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE SORUM'S FATE BEFALL YOU, TOO...


DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM HER?
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I DON'T INTEND TO LET IT!

DO YOU WANT VENGEANCE FOR SORUM?
...

I DO !!

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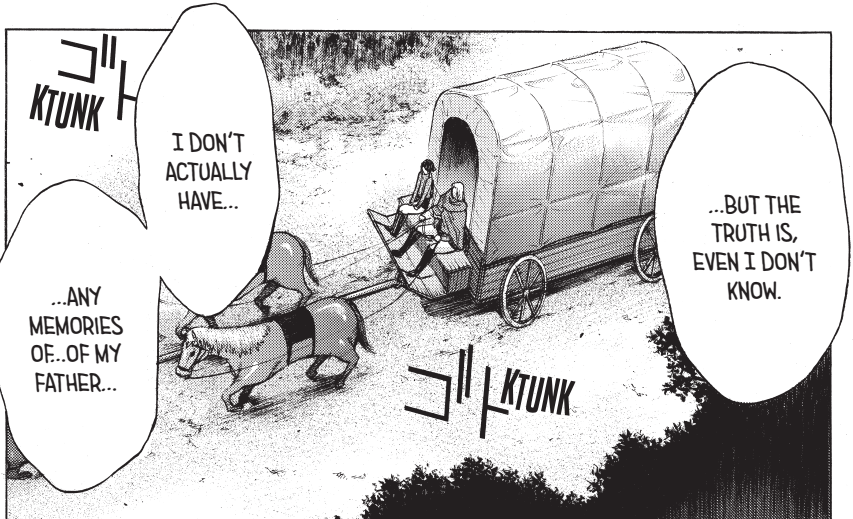
WELL...
I'VE BEEN TRYING... TO USE THAT FOR MOTIVA-TION...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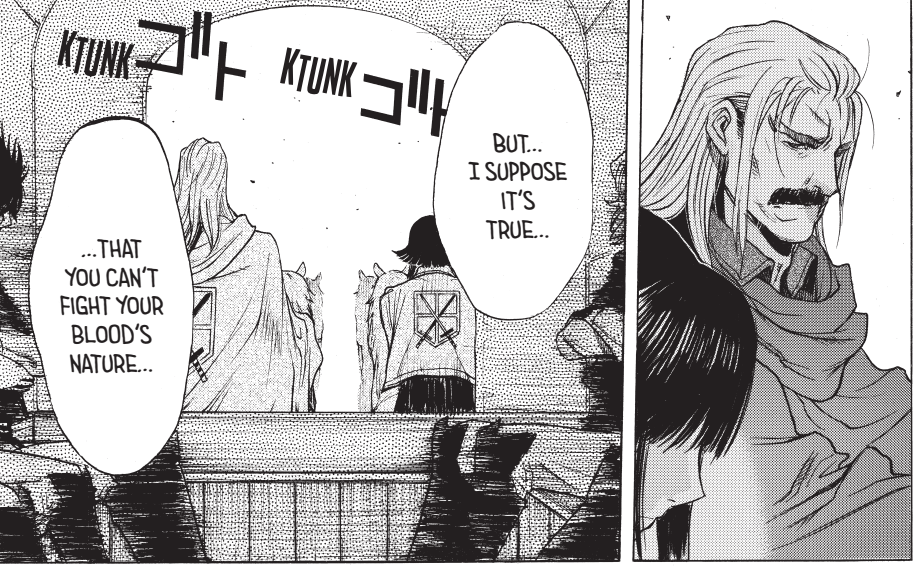
I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE...
...ANY MEMORIES OF...OF MY FATHER...
...BUT THE TRUTH IS, EVEN I DON'T KNOW.
ゴト KTUNK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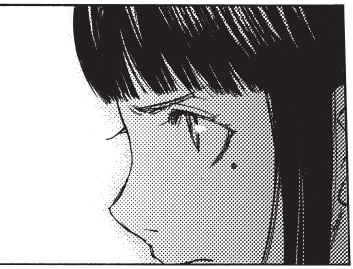
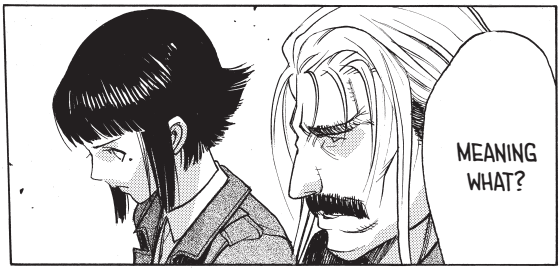
...THAT YOU CAN'T FIGHT YOUR BLOOD'S NATURE...
BUT... I SUPPOSE IT'S TRUE...




MEANING WHAT?

IT WAS HIS VERY NATURE THAT DREW ME TO THE SURVEY CORPS, I FEEL.
MY FATHER'S BLOOD, WHICH RUNS IN MY VEINS, BROUGHT ME HERE.

SORUM WAS AN EXCELLENT SOLDIER.
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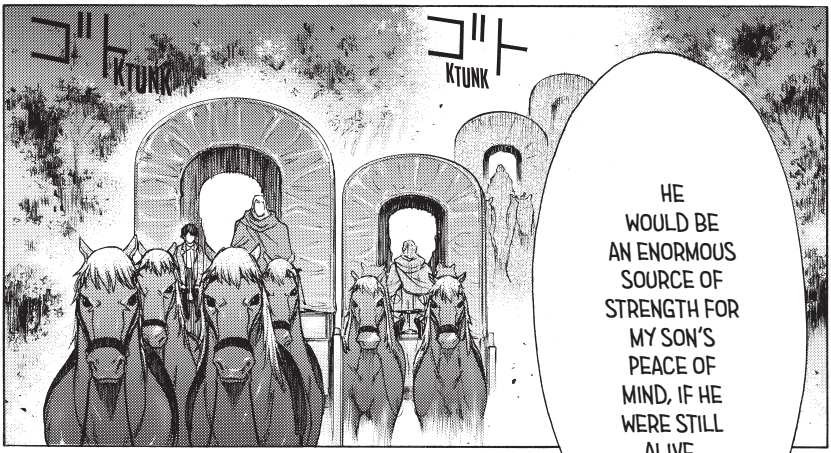
KTUNK ゴト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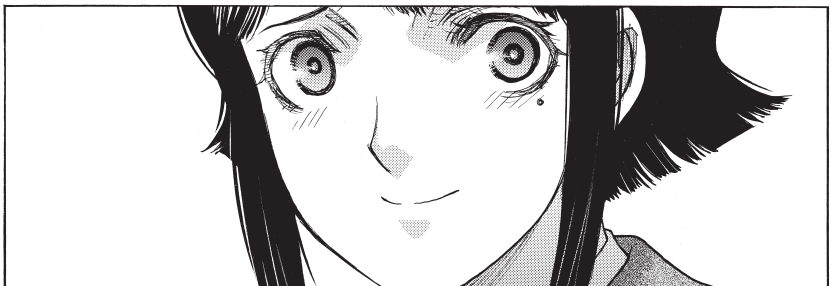
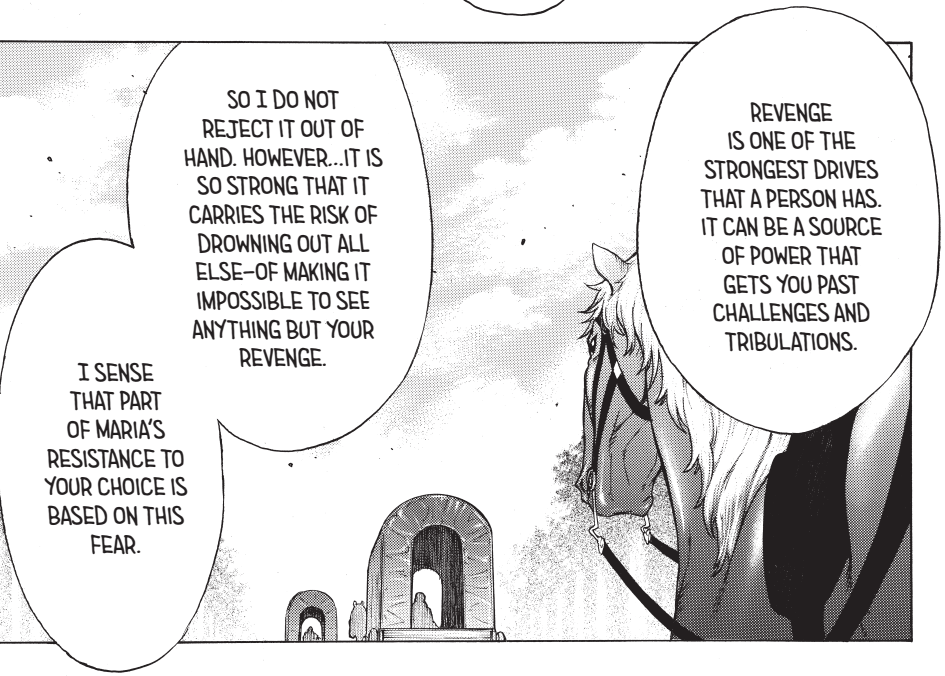
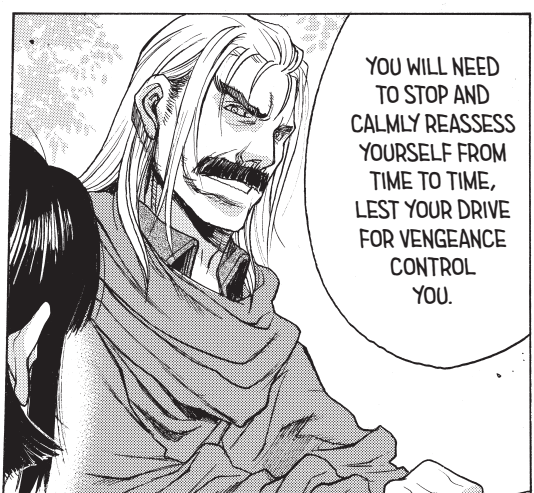
HE WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR MY SON'S PEACE OF MIND, IF HE WERE STILL ALIVE.

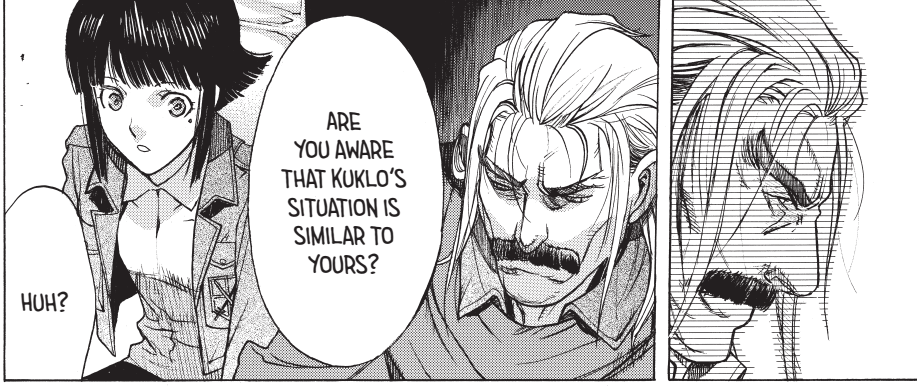


BUT... I WANT YOU TO KEEP THIS IN MIND.


REVENGE IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST DRIVES THAT A PERSON HAS. IT CAN BE A SOURCE OF POWER THAT GETS YOU PAST CHALLENGES AND TRIBULATIONS.
SO I DO NOT REJECT IT OUT OF HAND. HOWEVER...IT IS SO STRONG THAT IT CARRIES THE RISK OF DROWNING OUT ALL ELSE—OF MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE ANYTHING BUT YOUR REVENGE.
I SENSE THAT PART OF MARIA'S RESISTANCE TO YOUR CHOICE IS BASED ON THIS FEAR.

YES, SIR!


YOU WILL NEED TO STOP AND CALMLY REASSESS YOURSELF FROM TIME TO TIME, LEST YOUR DRIVE FOR VENGEANCE CONTROL YOU.

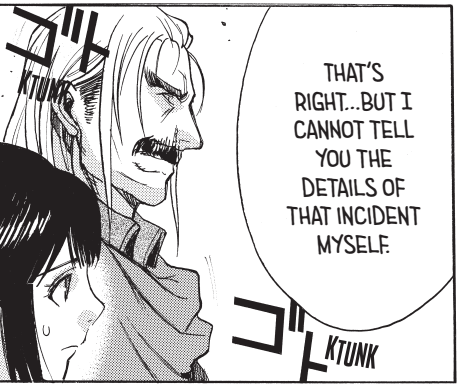

HUH?
ARE YOU AWARE THAT KUKLO'S SITUATION IS SIMILAR TO YOURS?

!
KUKLO'S FATHER WAS ALSO A SUBORDINATE OF MINE...WHO WAS EATEN BY A TITAN.

THEN... KUKLO'S FATHER AND MINE...
...WERE COMRADES IN ARMS!

...
HE WAS THE LEADER OF SORUM AND CARLO'S SQUAD, A MAN WITH A VERY PROMISING FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM.
ゴト KTUNK

!
HIS MOTHER WAS EATEN BY ONE AS WELL.
AND NOT ONLY THAT.


THAT'S RIGHT...BUT I CANNOT TELL YOU THE DETAILS OF THAT INCIDENT MYSELF.
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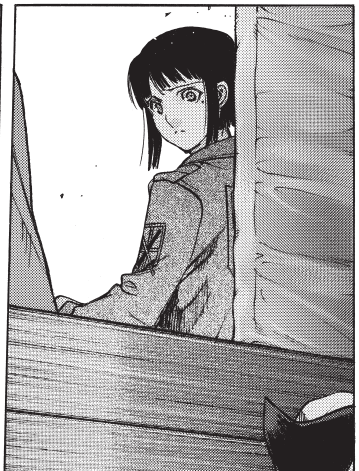
ゴト KTUNK

...ABOUT THE BREACH OF SHIGANSHINA DISTRICT?
ARE YOU TALKING...



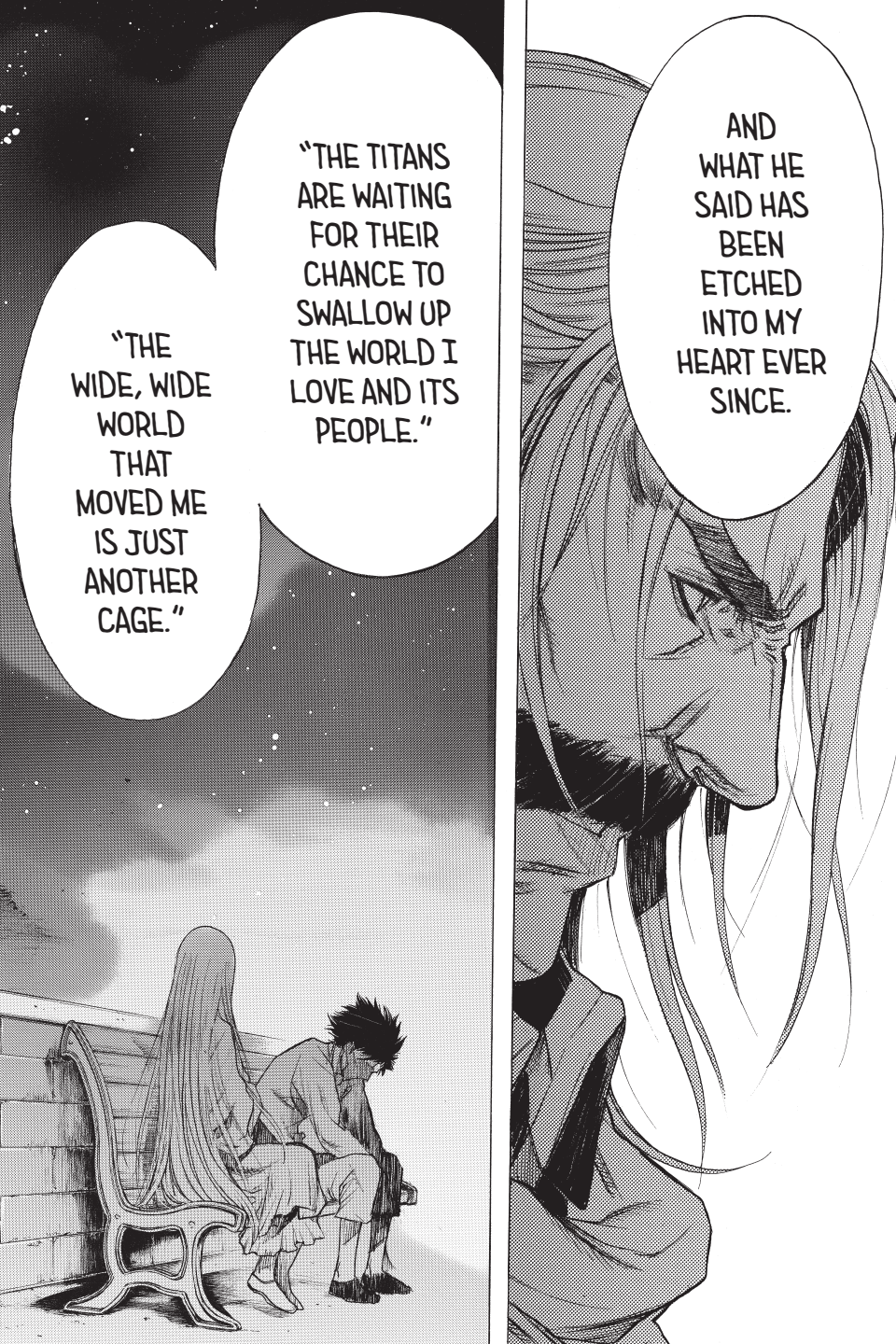
I HAVE NEVER HEARD KUKLO SPEAK OF REVENGE—OF AVENGING HIS PARENTS' DEATHS.

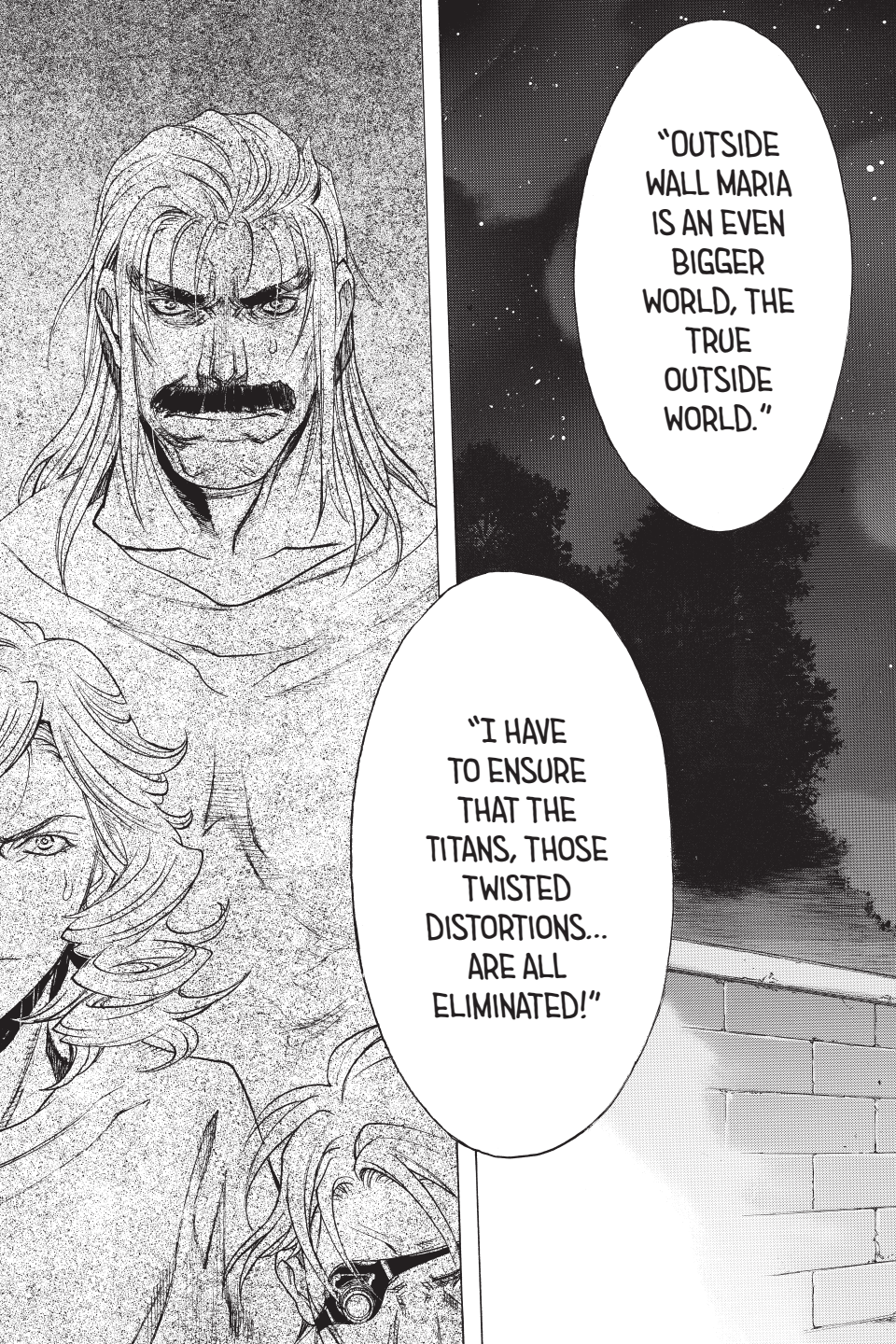
HIS UPBRINGING LIKELY PLAYS INTO THAT CHOICE.

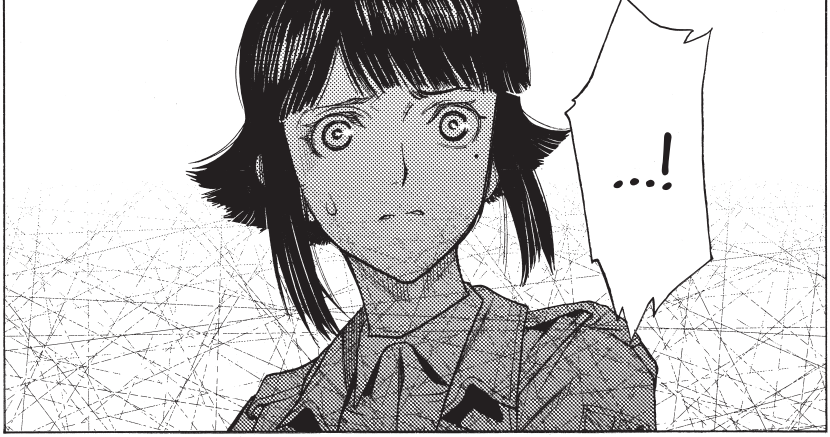
HE WAS BORN FROM HIS MOTHER'S PARTIALLY-EATEN CORPSE...

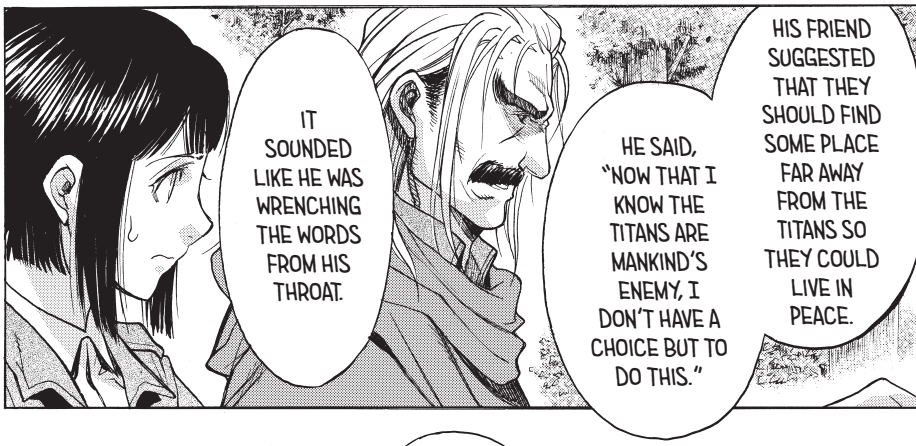
...AND HE GREW UP IN A CAGE, CALLED THE "TITAN'S SON," AND TREATED LIKE A FREAKISH ANIMAL.

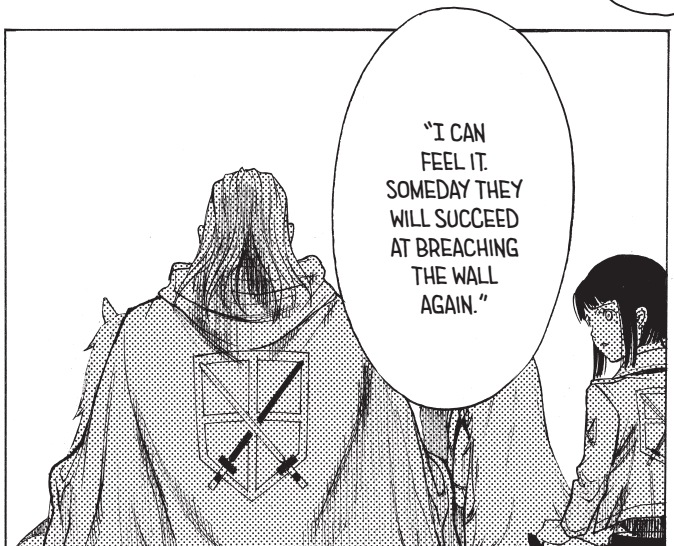
HIS FIXATION ON THE CONCEPT OF FAMILY IS WEAK.
NO...!
BUT ONCE HE WAS FREED FROM HIS CAGE, WHAT HE FELT FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WAS NOT HATRED...BUT LOVE.
THAT IS WHY KUKLO CHOSE TO FIGHT THE TITANS.
HUH...?
I HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR SOMETHING HE WAS TELLING A FRIEND OF HIS ONCE.


"THE TITANS ARE WAITING FOR THEIR CHANCE TO SWALLOW UP THE WORLD I LOVE AND ITS PEOPLE."
"THE WIDE, WIDE WORLD THAT MOVED ME IS JUST ANOTHER CAGE."
AND WHAT HE SAID HAS BEEN ETCHED INTO MY HEART EVER SINCE.


"OUTSIDE WALL MARIA IS AN EVEN BIGGER WORLD, THE TRUE OUTSIDE WORLD."
"I HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THE TITANS, THOSE TWISTED DISTORTIONS... ARE ALL ELIMINATED!"

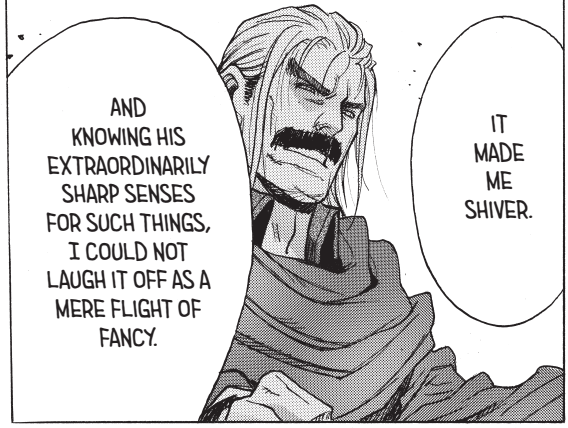

...!

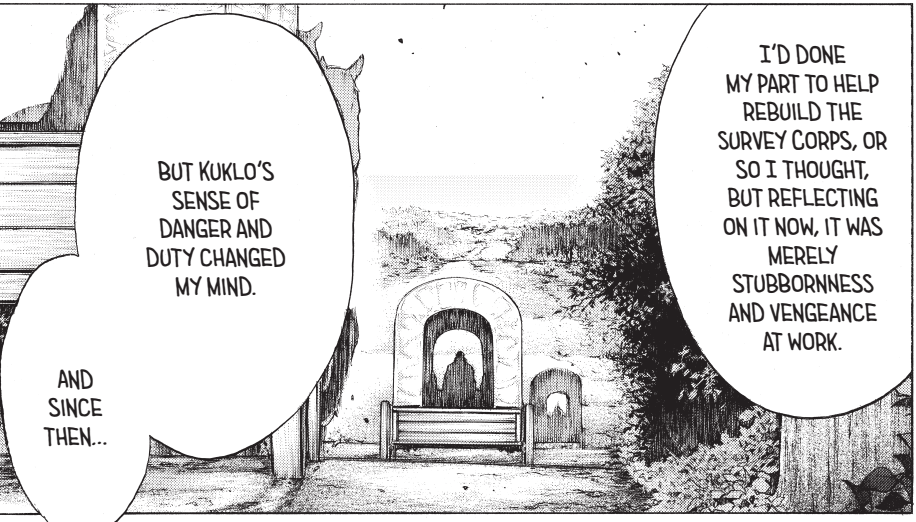

IT SOUNDED LIKE HE WAS WRENCHING THE WORDS FROM HIS THROAT.
HE SAID, "NOW THAT I KNOW THE TITANS ARE MANKIND'S ENEMY, I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE BUT TO DO THIS."
HIS FRIEND SUGGESTED THAT THEY SHOULD FIND SOME PLACE FAR AWAY FROM THE TITANS SO THEY COULD LIVE IN PEACE.


"I CAN FEEL IT. SOMEDAY THEY WILL SUCCEED AT BREACHING THE WALL AGAIN."

AND THEN HE SAID...

THAT WAS THE POINT AT WHICH I RECONSIDERED OUR EFFORTS TO WIPE OUT THE TITANS.


AND KNOWING HIS EXTRAORDINARILY SHARP SENSES FOR SUCH THINGS, I COULD NOT LAUGH IT OFF AS A MERE FLIGHT OF FANCY.
IT MADE ME SHIVER.


BUT KUKLO'S SENSE OF DANGER AND DUTY CHANGED MY MIND.
AND SINCE THEN...
I'D DONE MY PART TO HELP REBUILD THE SURVEY CORPS, OR SO I THOUGHT, BUT REFLECTING ON IT NOW, IT WAS MERELY STUBBORNNESS AND VENGEANCE AT WORK.

...WHAT I HEARD HIM SAY HAS ALWAYS LURKED IN THE BACK OF MY MIND, DRIVING ME ONWARD TOWARD OUR GOAL.

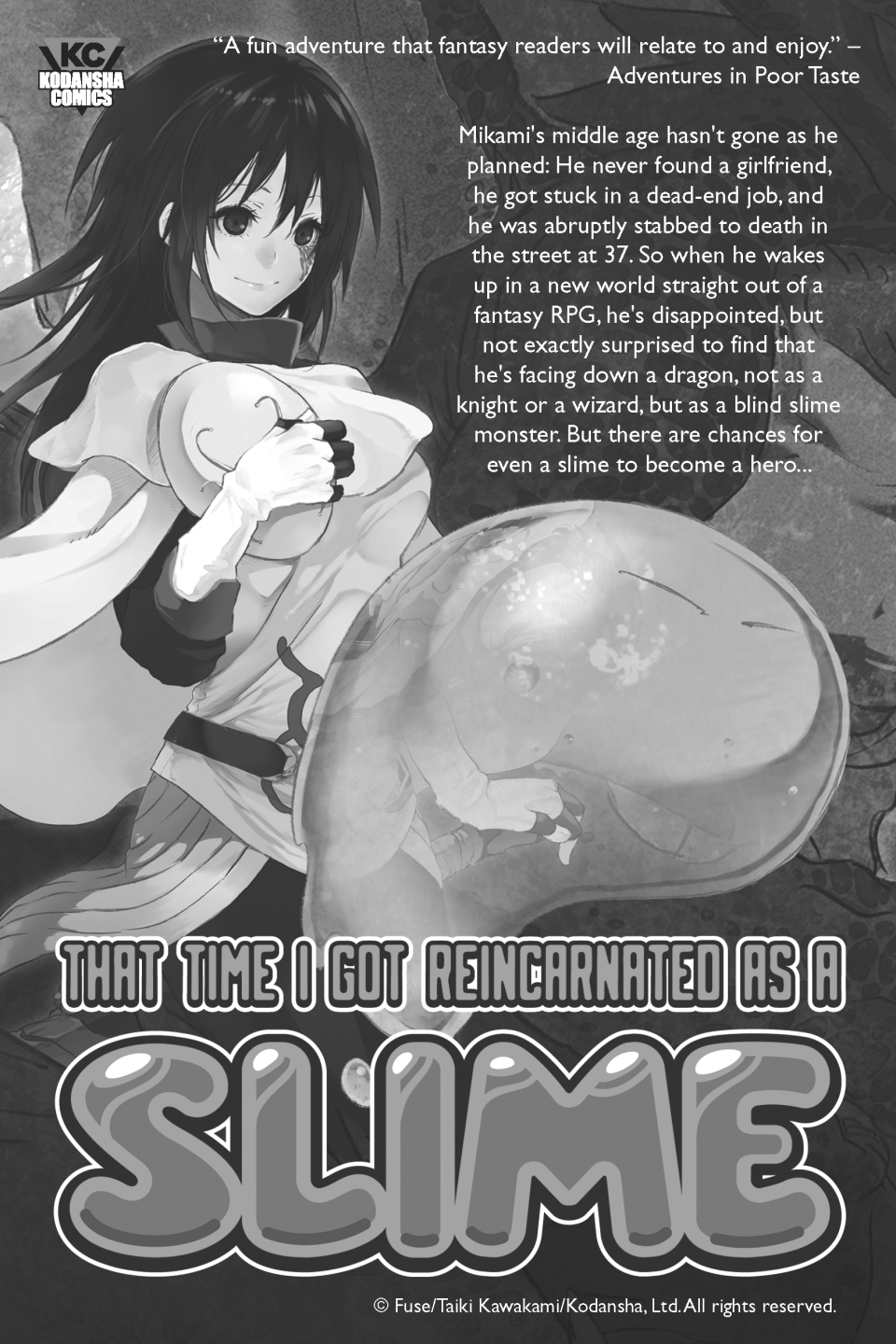
BEFORE THAT TERRIBLE DAY ARRIVES...

GULP
THIS IS THE REASON I FIGHT AGAINST THE TITANS.
AND YOU MUST FIND YOUR OWN REASON FOR FIGHTING, ROSA!
IF YOU UNDER-STAND THAT AND WHY IT DRIVES YOU, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE MARIA OF YOUR CAUSE.

Chapter 48: The Reason I Fight • End

ATTACK ON TITAN
BEFORE THE FALL

TO BE CONTINUED



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KC
KODANSHA
COMICS
FIRE SOLDIER
8
TOKYO
A new series from the creator of *Soul Eater*, the megahit manga and anime seen on Toonami!
"Fun and lively... a great start!"
-Adventures in Poor Taste
FIRE FORCE
By Atsushi Ohkubo
The city of Tokyo is plagued by a deadly phenomenon: spontaneous human combustion! Luckily, a special team is there to quench the inferno: The Fire Force! The fire soldiers at Special Fire Cathedral 8 are about to get a unique addition. Enter Shinra, a boy who possesses the power to run at the speed of a rocket, leaving behind the famous "devil's footprints" (and destroying his shoes in the process). Can Shinra and his colleagues discover the source of this strange epidemic before the city burns to ashes?
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From the creator of *The Ancient Magus' Bride* comes a supernatural action manga in the vein of *Fullmetal Alchemist*!

More than a century after an eccentric scholar made an infamous deal with a devil, the story of Faust has passed into legend. However, the true Faust is not the stuffy, professorial man known in fairy tales, but a charismatic, bespectacled woman named Johanna Faust, who happens to still be alive. Searching for pieces of her long-lost demon, Johanna passes through a provincial town, where she saves a young boy named Marion from a criminal's fate. In exchange, she asks a simple favor of Marion, but Marion soon finds himself intrigued by the peculiar Doctor Faust and joins her on her journey. Thus begins the strange and wonderful adventures of *Frau Faust*!

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KC KODANSHA COMICS

The Black Museum: The Ghost and the Lady

By Kazuhiro Fujita

Deep in Scotland Yard in London sits an evidence room dedicated to the greatest mysteries of British history. In this "Black Museum" sits a misshapen hunk of lead—two bullets fused together—the key to a wartime encounter between Florence Nightingale, the mother of modern nursing, and a supernatural Man in Grey. This story is unknown to most scholars of history, but a special guest of the museum will tell the tale of *The Ghost and the Lady*...

Praise for Kazuhiro Fujita's *Ushio and Tora*

"A charming revival that combines a classic look with modern depth and pacing... **Essential viewing both for curmudgeons and new fans alike.**" — Anime News Network

"**GREAT!** The first episode of *Ushio and Tora* captures the essence of '90s anime." — IGN

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KC KODANSHA COMICS

Japan's most powerful spirit medium delves into the ghost world's greatest mysteries!

Story by Kyo Shirodaira, famed author of mystery fiction and creator of *Spiral*, *Blast of Tempest*, and *The Record of a Fallen Vampire*.

Both touched by spirits called yôkai, Kotoko and Kurô have gained unique superhuman powers. But to gain her powers Kotoko has given up an eye and a leg, and Kurô's personal life is in shambles. So when Kotoko suggests they team up to deal with renegades from the spirit world, Kurô doesn't have many other choices, but Kotoko might just have a few ulterior motives...

IN/SPECTRE

STORY BY KYO SHIRODAIRA
ART BY CHASHIBA KATASE

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DELUXE EDITION

BATTLE ANGEL ALITA

After more than a decade out of print, the original cyberpunk action classic returns in glorious 400-page hardcover deluxe editions, featuring an all-new translation, color pages, and new cover designs!

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Far beneath the shimmering space-city of Zalem lie the trash-heaps of The Scrapyard... Here, cyber-doctor and bounty hunter Daisuke Ido finds the head and torso of an amnesiac cyborg girl. He names her Alita and vows to fill her life with beauty, but in a moment of desperation, a fragment of Alita's mysterious past awakens in her. She discovers that she possesses uncanny prowess in the legendary martial art known as panzerkunst. With her newfound skills, Alita decides to become a hunter-warrior - tracking down and taking out those who prey on the weak. But can she hold onto her humanity in the dark and gritty world of The Scrapyard?

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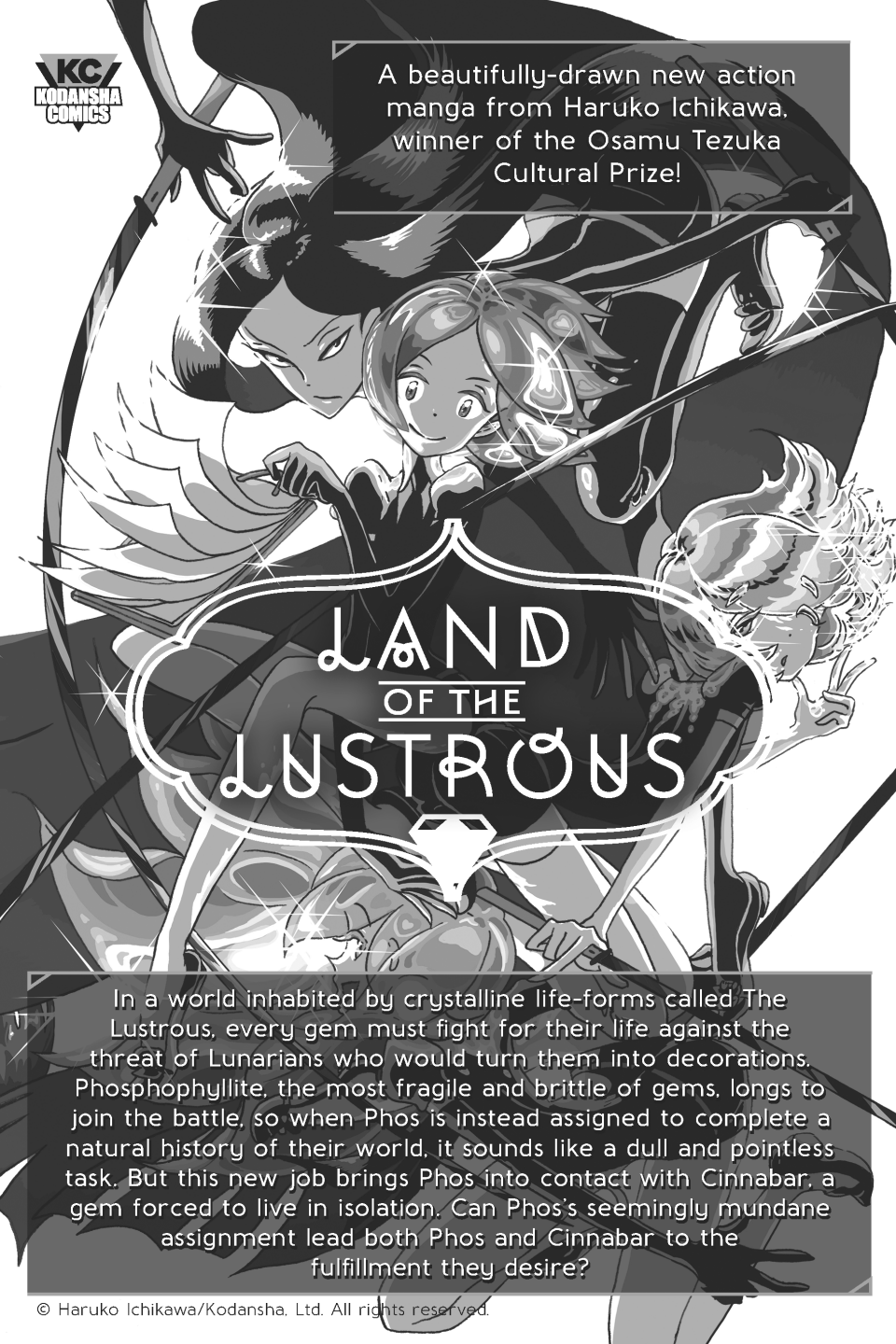

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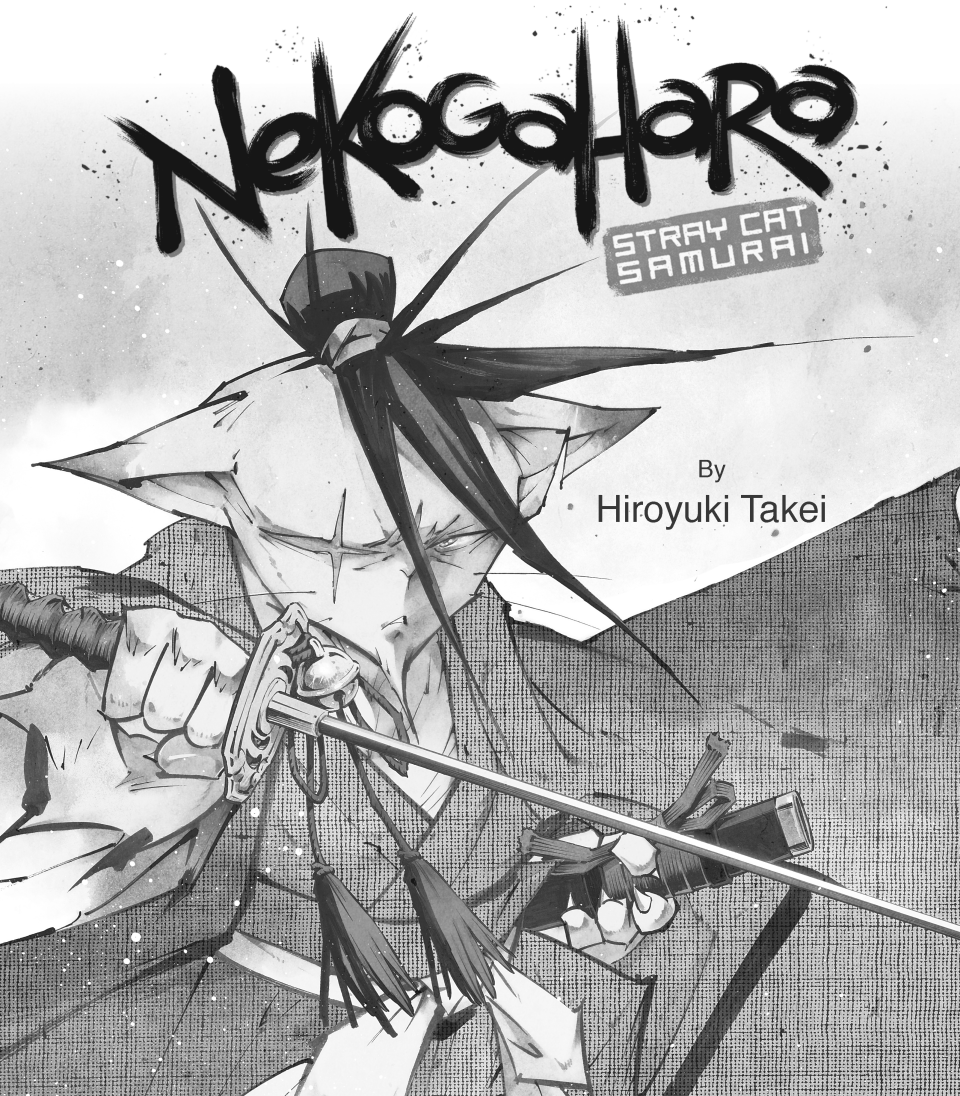
KC KODANSHA COMICS

New action series from Hiroyuki Takei, creator of the classic shonen franchise Shaman King!

In medieval Japan, a bell hanging on the collar is a sign that a cat has a master. Norachiyo's bell hangs from his katana sheath, but he is nonetheless a stray — a ronin. This one-eyed cat samurai travels across a dishonest world, cutting through pretense and deception with his blade.



A new series from Yoshitoki Oima, creator of The New York Times bestselling manga and Eisner Award nominee *A Silent Voice*!

An intimate, emotional drama and an epic story spanning time and space...

TO YOUR ETERNITY

An orb was cast unto the earth. After metamorphosing into a wolf, It joins a boy on his bleak journey to find his tribe. Ever learning, It transcends death, even when those around It cannot…

KC KODANSHA COMICS

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"An emotional and artistic tour de force! We see incredible triumph, and crushing defeat... each panel [is] a thrill!"
—Anitay

"A journey that's instantly compelling."
—Anime News Network

WELCOME TO THE BALLROOM

By Tomo Takeuchi

Feckless high school student Tatara Fujita wants to be good at something—anything. Unfortunately, he's about as average as a slouchy teen can be. The local bullies know this, and make it a habit to hit him up for cash, but all that changes when the debonair Kaname Sengoku sends them packing. Sengoku's not the neighborhood watch, though. He's a professional ballroom dancer. And once Tatara Fujita gets pulled into the world of ballroom, his life will never be the same.

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From the creator of *No Game No Life*

Naoto is a brilliant amateur mechanic who spends his days tinkering with gears and inventions. And his world is a playground—a massive, intricate machine. But his quiet life is disrupted when a box containing an automaton in the shape of a girl crashes into his home. Could this be an omen of a breakdown in Naoto's delicate clockwork planet? And is this his chance to become a hero?

CLOCKWORK PLANET

Praise for the manga and anime

"Immediately fast-paced and absorbing." - *Another Anime Review*

"A compelling science fiction world… Wildly fun and dynamic characters…The perfect manga for those who have read it all." - *Adventures in Poor Taste*

Now available in print and digitally!

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"*Parasyte* fans should get a kick out of the chance to revisit Iwaaki's weird, violent, strangely affecting universe. Recommended." -Otaku USA Magazine

"A great anthology containing an excellent variety of genres and styles." -Manga Bookshelf

Based on the critically acclaimed classic horror manga

The first new *Parasyte* manga in over 20 years!

NEO PARASYTE

BY ASUMIKO NAKAMURA, EMA TOYAMA, MIKI RINNO, LALAKO KOJIMA, KAORI YUKI, BANKO KUZE, YUUKI OBATA, KASHIO, YUI KUROE, ASIA WATANABE, MIKIMAKI, HIKARU SURUGA, HAJIME SHINJO, RENJURO KINDAICHI, AND YURI NARUSHIMA

A collection of chilling new *Parasyte* stories from Japan's top shojo artists!

Parasites: shape-shifting aliens whose only purpose is to assimilate with and consume the human race... but do these monsters have a different side? A parasite becomes a prince to save his romance-obsessed female host from a dangerous stalker. Another hosts a cooking show, in which the real monsters are revealed. These and 13 more stories, from some of the greatest shojo manga artists alive today, together make up a chilling, funny, and entertaining tribute to one of manga's horror classics!

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HAPPINESS

ハピネス

By **Shuzo Oshimi**

From the creator of *The Flowers of Evil*

Nothing interesting is happening in Makoto Ozaki's first year of high school. HIs life is a series of quiet humiliations: low-grade bullies, unreliable friends, and the constant frustration of his adolescent lust. But one night, a pale, thin girl knocks him to the ground in an alley and offers him a choice.

Now everything is different. Daylight is searingly bright. Food tastes awful. And worse than anything is the terrible, consuming thirst...

Praise for Shuzo Oshimi's *The Flowers of Evil*

"A shockingly readable story that vividly—one might even say queasily—evokes the fear and confusion of discovering one's own sexuality. Recommended." —The Manga Critic

"A page-turning tale of sordid middle school blackmail." —Otaku USA Magazine

"A stunning new horror manga." —Third Eye Comics

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Attack on Titan: Before the Fall 13

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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